United Nations A/67/280–S/2012/614

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
9 August 2012

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session

Items 122 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), (n), (o), (p), (q), (r), (s), (t), (u) and (v) of the provisional agenda*

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

Cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Community of Central African States

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

* A/67/150.

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Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie

Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

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Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In a number of resolutions, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction the active participation of regional and other organizations in the work of the United Nations. The present report is prepared pursuant to the most recent requests of the Assembly that the Secretary-General submit a report on the implementation of those resolutions at its sixty-seventh session.

As requested by the General Assembly in paragraph 4 (l) of the annex to its resolution 58/316, this is a consolidated report on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations.

The present report covers the period since the most recent consolidated report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations was issued on 20 September 2010 (A/65/382-S/2010/490).

In its resolution 1809 (2008), the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to include, in his regular reporting to the Council, assessments of progress on the cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional organizations. This report constitutes part of the response to that request.

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I. Introduction

1. Section II of the present report has been prepared pursuant to the most recent resolutions in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report on the cooperation between the United Nations and a number of regional and other organizations.

2. In its resolution 1809 (2008), the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to include, in his regular reporting to the Council, assessments of progress on the cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional organizations. This report constitutes part of the response to that request.

3. The activities and achievements described in this report demonstrate the depth of cooperation achieved between the United Nations and its regional partners across the full range of mandate areas, from maintenance of international peace and security and humanitarian assistance to development and the protection of human rights. Such cooperation shows, in practice, how the arrangements provided for in Chapter VIII of the Charter can be operationalized, leading to concrete results. The United Nations remains committed to working closely with regional and subregional organizations to devise common responses to the increasingly complex and transnational challenges that we face.

II. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

African Union

4. In 2010, the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission launched the Joint Task Force on peace and security, which meets twice a year. The United Nations Office to the African Union was established in 2010, strengthening the partnership between the two organizations. The Office, which represents the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, of the United Nations Secretariat, on the ground, has worked closely with and supported AU in the areas of policymaking, operational planning and long-term capacity-building, as well as in a number of country and regional situations.

5. The Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council held their fifth and sixth joint consultative meetings in 2011 and 2012.

6. The United Nations, through the Department of Political Affairs, has assisted AU in the development of its continental conflict prevention framework, which seeks to harmonize AU efforts with those of the regional economic communities. In the context of the Ten-year Capacity Building Programme for AU, the United Nations supports the development of the African Solidarity Initiative in mobilizing resources for post-conflict reconstruction and development. The United Nations has also developed a regional strategy to support the implementation of the AU Regional Cooperation Initiative against the Lord's Resistance Army. The United Nations, AU and regional economic communities have carried out joint preventive diplomacy and peacemaking activities in Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar and Mali, and between the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan, among others.

7. The United Nations and AU have an important strategic partnership in Somalia, as guarantors for the road map to ending the transition, which is due to conclude in August 2012. The two organizations jointly developed the strategic concept for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in early 2012, subsequently endorsed by the AU Peace and Security Council and the Security Council. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations has provided backstopping support to the United Nations Office to the African Union in assisting the AU Commission in its planning, deployment and management of AMISOM, while the Department of Field Support has continued to deliver the logistic support package to AMISOM through the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia (UNSOA).

8. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support cooperated closely with AU in support of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). The Department of Field Support continued to participate in the tripartite mechanism with the Government of the Sudan and AU to facilitate UNAMID deployment and mandate implementation. Following the adoption of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur in 2011, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations worked closely with AU to develop a framework for the facilitation of a comprehensive and inclusive settlement to the conflict, which was presented to the Security Council in 2012. Further to Council resolution 2003 (2011), the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and AU conducted a review of the military, police and mission support components of UNAMID from July 2011 to March 2012.

9. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations has provided technical support to AU in a number of thematic areas, including security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and mine action, coordinated through the United Nations Office to the African Union. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations has supported AU in the formulation of its continental security sector reform policy and in the implementation of a number of security sector reform projects. In 2012, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the United Nations Office to the African Union and the World Bank launched a one-year programme to develop AU disarmament, demobilization and reintegration capacity, to be supplemented by a three-year follow-up programme currently under development.

10. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa continued to assist AU in its efforts in respect of developing an African common strategy to control small arms and light weapons. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and AU organized an expert meeting in 2011 to draft this strategy. In 2012, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and AU held an African regional consultation on the future of the arms trade treaty. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa also contributed to the AU expert meeting in 2012 on the situation of arms control in the Sahel.

11. The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate has further strengthened its cooperation with AU, particularly with the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism. The Centre contributed to Directorate workshops on the prohibition of incitement to committing terrorism and enhancing cultural dialogue, within the framework of Security Council resolution 1624 (2005). It has regularly joined the Directorate on visits to Member States conducted on behalf of

the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism (known as the Counter-Terrorism Committee). Following the United Nations assessment mission to the Sahel in 2011, the Directorate and the Centre released their joint findings on security and border control.

12. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime supports the implementation of the AU Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2007-2012). The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime also provides assistance for the development and the implementation of subregional programmes, in partnership with regional economic communities and intergovernmental organizations, as well as national projects.

13. In 2010, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and AU signed a memorandum of understanding and established a plan of action. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs supports AU on the implementation of its guidelines for the protection of civilians during AU-mandated peace support operations. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has hosted and supported events aimed at strengthening the engagement and visibility of the community of affected member States in Africa. In 2011, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs supported the development of a mechanism for the mobilization, allocation and disbursement of resources for crises on the continent, which was deployed during the Sahel crisis in 2012.

14. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has supported the AU ministerial process in the area of civil registration and vital statistics, highlighting the need to ensure birth registration for refugee children and to prevent statelessness. UNHCR contributed to the development of an AU border management programme, in particular with regard to the identification and protection of refugees in mixed flows. UNHCR supported the 2009-2012 AU initiative against trafficking in persons campaign, including in the West Africa, the Horn of Africa and East African subregions, and is working to extend it to North and Central Africa.

15. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and UNHCR engaged in advocacy efforts to bring into force the 2009 AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, as well as to implement it at the national level.

16. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights supports the implementation of the AU Human Rights Strategy for Africa. In 2011, OHCHR provided training on human rights fact-finding and monitoring techniques for members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. In 2012, the Office of the High Commissioner organized a joint consultation between the Human Rights Council under its special procedures and the African Commission under its special mechanisms, which resulted in the adoption of a road map designed to enhance their cooperation. The Office of the High Commissioner also organized a meeting between chairpersons of the United Nations human rights treaty bodies and African regional and subregional human rights mechanisms.

17. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) has supported the AU Commission in the preparation of

guidance and training materials related to gender mainstreaming in areas such as training personnel of AU peace support operations, which has included troop-contributing countries. UN-Women also worked with the AU Commission in infusing a gender perspective into the Human Rights Strategy for Africa and its action plan.

18. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supported the development of the African Charter on Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration and the ratification of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, which came into force in 2012. UNDP also supported AU and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (A/57/304, annex) in the establishment of the Africa Platform for Development Effectiveness, as well as in the development of an African common position for the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in 2011.

19. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) serves as the Secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and supports a number of regional initiatives, including the African Process for Combating Climate Change and the preparations for the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2012. Further to a request from the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in 2012, UNEP assisted African countries in their preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

20. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) worked with the AU Commission on Nuclear Energy to ensure compliance with existing non-proliferation obligations and to promote cooperation in the peaceful, safe and secure uses of nuclear science and technology. IAEA has cooperated with the African Energy Commission, helping organize the second regional conference on energy and nuclear power in Africa in 2011.

21. The International Labour Organization (ILO) supported the preparation of the Africa Youth Forum in 2011 and monitored progress made in the implementation of the Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment and Poverty Alleviation. ILO has worked with AU in a number of employment-related areas in the context of the Ten-year Capacity-Building Programme, including youth employment, labour-market governance and social protection of workers. ILO also supported the development of the AU policy on HIV/AIDS in the workplace, launched in 2011. ILO, AU, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Development Bank initiated a Joint Youth Employment Initiative for Africa, endorsed by AU Ministers of Labour in 2011.

22. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) provides support for the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. FAO has worked with AU in designing and implementing the Initiative for Ending Drought Emergencies in the Horn of Africa. Other areas in which FAO is collaborating with AU include integrated natural resources management, desertification and environmental degradation, and institutional capacity-building to address post-harvest losses of essential crops.

23. At the request of the AU Commission, the World Health Organization (WHO) prepared a discussion paper on infant mortality in 2010, which was later adopted by AU as a policy document. WHO has collaborated with AU within the framework of

the Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa, launched in 2009. AU, WHO and other partners have organized a joint Ministers of Finance and Ministers of Health Conference in 2012 on sustainability and accountability in health. In 2011, WHO and the AU Commission signed a new memorandum of understanding to strengthen their cooperation.

24. In 2012, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and AU decided to strengthen their cooperation in respect of mutual participation in high-level meetings; upstream exchange of information on key publications and regional outlooks; and capacity-building. The AU Commission has requested assistance from IMF in reviewing the draft statutes and detailed annexes associated with the creation of the African monetary fund.

25. The Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat publishes the quarterly magazine *Africa Renewal*. The Department of Public Information also cooperated with AU in organizing activities for the observance of the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization

26. With a view to commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[1] the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization organized a workshop in 2012. The Legal Consultative Organization also organized joint meetings with the International Law Commission during the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

27. The Legal Consultative Organization organized a Meeting of Legal Experts on the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in 2011, including a keynote address by the President of the International Criminal Court. The issues discussed included the preconditions for the exercise of jurisdiction; bilateral immunity agreements; and the principle of complementarity.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations

28. On the occasion of the fourth United Nations-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit, held in Bali, Indonesia, in November 2011, a Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations was adopted. The Declaration defines four main cooperation areas: (a) political-security; (b) economic; (c) sociocultural; and (d) Secretariat-to-Secretariat. As the first step towards the implementation of this Declaration, an ASEAN-United Nations workshop on conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding was held in 2012, which identified a number of follow-up activities. On its margins, the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations participated in another round of Secretariat-to-Secretariat dialogue between the two organizations.

29. In 2010, the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat organized a workshop in Hanoi on the implementation of Security Council

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

resolution 1540 (2004) for States of South-East Asia. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific provided substantive support to the ASEAN Workshop and Study Visit on Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons and Unexploded Ordnance Control, held in Phnom Penh in 2012.

30. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs works closely with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance to respond to emergencies in the region and to enhance the disaster management and response capacity of ASEAN. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has played a leading coordinating role in developing and implementing the ASEAN-United Nations Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management (2011-2015).

31. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights provided technical support for the development of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children. Upon request from the Intergovernmental Commission, UNDP helped identify experts who could participate in the ASEAN human rights declaration seminar and provide advice and share experiences in respect of developing regional human rights instruments.

32. UN-Women has contributed to increased capacity among ASEAN mechanisms on gender equality and non-discrimination instruments, with the aim of mainstreaming gender-equality principles throughout ASEAN mechanisms.

33. The 2011 Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations makes reference to the "close relationship" with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), including in its capacity as convenor of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism. One focus of the relationship has been the publication in 2010 of *Striving Together: ASEAN and the UN*,[2] which takes stock of progress of ASEAN in regional integration and the support provided by the United Nations.

34. ILO has been cooperating with ASEAN in the framework of the ASEAN Labour Ministers' Work Programme, 2010-2015. ILO has furthered its cooperation with ASEAN in a number of thematic areas, such as international labour standards, social protection and skills development, through provision of technical and project assistance.

Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization

35. High-level contacts between the Permanent International Secretariat of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization and the United Nations Secretariat have continued on a regular basis. One specific area for cooperation included a multifaceted projects-based programme initiated by United Nations Academic Impact with the Black Sea Universities Network, established by the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, which resulted in their collaboration on a seminar on education and sustainability, held in Constanța, Romania, in 2011.

[2] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.II.F.3.

Caribbean Community

36. The Sixth General Meeting between representatives of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the United Nations system was held in 2011, co-chaired by the Department of Political Affairs and the CARICOM Directorate for Foreign and Community Relations. The meeting recognized that the Regional Strategic Framework adopted at the Fifth General Meeting in 2009 had raised awareness on the need for a more coherent United Nations approach to cooperation in the Caribbean. The meeting also underscored the need to strengthen United Nations technical cooperation in the Caribbean through a mechanism capable of directing programming and funding priorities. Following consultations, the Regional United Nations Development Group for Latin America and the Caribbean was designated to coordinate the Organization's programmatic assistance to the region.

37. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean engaged in close collaboration with the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security. The Implementation Agency participated in Regional Centre-led weapons destruction-related activities in the subregion and attended a number of seminars organized by the Regional Centre in 2011 and 2012.

38. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and CARICOM have worked together on the development of the CARICOM Action Plan for Social and Development Crime Prevention 2009-2013, which was endorsed in 2011. Over the last two years, CARICOM has participated in United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime counter-terrorism capacity-building activities in the region. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has provided support for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) among Caribbean countries.

39. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs works closely with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, including on the elaboration of standard operating procedures for emergency response. In 2011 and 2012, several meetings were held to familiarize national authorities and regional bodies with international community coordination structures, financial mechanisms and information management.

40. UN-Women collaborates with CARICOM on a number of activities related to gender mainstreaming and in support of groups of women that are especially discriminated against and excluded. In 2011, UN-Women provided financial and technical resources to CARICOM for the facilitation of the launch of a public campaign on violence against women. With UN-Women support, the CARICOM Advocate for Gender Justice prepared a thematic report to guide national regional prevention policies on youth, gender and violence.

41. UN-Women, ILO, WHO and other United Nations entities work with CARICOM on the implementation of the Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV/AIDS.

42. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has partnered with the CARICOM Climate Change Centre in making policy recommendations for adaptive and mitigative actions based on the conduct of economic assessments of the impact of climate change in the Caribbean. In the area of statistics, ECLAC worked with the Caribbean Development Bank in hosting an

expert group meeting on data warehousing. ECLAC and CARICOM are working together to support the participation of all Caribbean countries in the International Comparison Programme.

43. In 2011, UNDP assisted CARICOM in the area of citizen security and helped member States strengthen their capacities to address crime and insecurity through the establishment of oversight mechanisms at the regional and national levels. In 2011, UNDP also supported the process of revitalizing the Assembly of CARICOM Parliamentarians.

44. UNEP works closely with CARICOM in support of the Council for Trade and Economic Development. UNEP also works with the Sustainable Development Unit of the CARICOM Secretariat to strengthen capacity for implementing multilateral environmental agreements in areas such as land degradation, green economy, water resources, biosafety, sustainable development, and integrated management of the Caribbean Sea.

45. ILO has been working with CARICOM in support of the conduct and enhancement of labour force surveys in CARICOM member States. Through a joint effort by ILO and ECLAC, a training programme for national statistics offices was conducted in 2010.

46. FAO supported CARICOM in the formulation and implementation of the Regional Programme for Food Security. In 2012, FAO collaborated with CARICOM in convening a regional workshop on the preparation of disaster risk management plans for floods, hurricanes and droughts in the agriculture sector. In 2011, a project for the establishment of a food and nutrition security information and early warning system for the CARICOM subregion was approved. FAO is also assisting the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology in enhancing the Caribbean drought and precipitation monitoring network.

47. WHO works in close coordination with CARICOM within the framework of the Pan-American Health Organization/WHO Subregional Cooperation Strategy for the Caribbean, 2010-2015. The technical cooperation provided by WHO to CARICOM focuses on: supporting the establishment of the Caribbean public-health agency; cooperation in the Caribbean disaster response area; strengthening health information systems; supporting the implementation of international health regulations; and adoption of a Caribbean pharmaceutical policy.

48. In 2011, the International Trade Centre convened a high-level dialogue with CARICOM officials to discuss the role that it could play in assisting Caribbean States in meeting the needs related to their services export strategies and in implementing the Economic Partnership Agreement signed with the European Union (EU).

Collective Security Treaty Organization

49. In 2011, the Secretary-General visited the Collective Security Treaty Organization Secretariat in Moscow and discussed means of promoting furthering cooperation between the two organizations. As a follow-up, in 2012, the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations organized a working-level mission to the Collective Security Treaty Organization Secretariat to

explore specific activities in areas of mutual interest, including through the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia.

50. In an effort to further develop the partnership in the peacekeeping field, the Collective Security Treaty Organization Secretariat proposed signing a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, which is expected to take place before the end of 2012.

51. In 2012, the Collective Security Treaty Organization took part in the visit of the Counter-Terrorism Committee to Kyrgyzstan, led by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. The aim was to monitor the progress made by Kyrgyzstan in implementing Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), as well as identify shortfalls and technical assistance needs.

52. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Collective Security Treaty Organization have sought to further their close cooperation, in particular in the context of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries.

Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries

53. The United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau has partnered with the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries to support national efforts to implement security sector reform in the country. In the aftermath of the coup d'état in April 2012, the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries have been cooperating with other regional and international stakeholders to enhance coordination of international efforts to restore constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau.

54. Since 2010, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries has been the main platform for activities of the ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour in Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa as well as in Timor-Leste. The involvement of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries in the Programme has ensured greater coherence and strengthened social dialogue mechanisms. In 2011, Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs of the eight Community countries adopted a resolution on the prevention and elimination of child labour exploitation, which called for the adoption of national action plans and capacity-building activities.

55. FAO has steadily increased its assistance to the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries in recent years through cooperation agreements, particularly in the field of land tenure and management. Two technical cooperation programmes and one Government cooperation programme were completed.

56. WHO and CPLP are working together within the framework of the ePORTUGUÊS Network, a platform for strengthening collaboration among Portuguese-speaking countries, especially in the areas of health information and capacity-building of human resources for health. A virtual health library has been developed for all eight Portuguese-speaking countries.

Council of Europe

57. In November 2010, the Secretary-General visited the Council of Europe on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights.

58. The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate maintains close working relations with the Council of Europe, notably through the Committee of Experts on Terrorism and the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism. Both entities regularly join the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate in visits to Member States on behalf of the Counter-Terrorism Committee to monitor the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). The Council of Europe has also worked closely with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate to develop a joint multi-year project on "bringing terrorists to justice", aimed at strengthening the investigation and prosecution capacities of Member States. In 2011, the Council of Europe and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate also organized a special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee with international and regional organizations to discuss ways to contribute to the global fight against terrorism.

59. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime participated in the twenty-second meeting of the Committee of Experts on Terrorism in 2012 to promote an exchange of views on the issue of human rights and terrorism. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime also took part in the first meeting of the Council of Europe working group for the elaboration of a framework aimed at reducing the global drug supply, held in 2011, and made substantive contributions to the draft proposal agreed at that meeting. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime communicates regularly with the Group of States against Corruption.

60. UNHCR provided technical assistance on recommendation CM/Rec(2011)13 entitled "Mobility, migration and access to health care", adopted by the Committee of Ministers in 2011, as well as a resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly on "Lives lost in the Mediterranean Sea: who is responsible?". UNHCR has also conducted joint training programmes with the Council of Europe on issues such as the protection of refugees and asylum seekers under refugee law and the European Convention on Human Rights. In addition, UNHCR has continued to intervene as a third party before the European Court of Human Rights.

61. In 2011, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Council of Europe held their fifth coordination meeting, which aimed at strengthening their cooperation and fostering the sharing of best practices so as to enhance the effectiveness of their work on human rights.

62. UN-Women provided technical input to the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, adopted in 2011. At the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held at United Nations Headquarters in February and March 2012, the two organizations agreed to jointly promote this Convention.

Economic Community of Central African States

63. In 2011, the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa was established in Libreville, Gabon. The Office is mandated to support the Economic Community of Central African States in addressing peace and security challenges in Central Africa, including by providing "good offices" on behalf of the Secretary-General and by enhancing coordination among United Nations entities and other partners.

64. In an effort to reinvigorate their partnership, the United Nations and the Economic Community of Central African States signed a framework of cooperation agreement in 2012. The document defines the priority areas of this partnership, such as political governance, mediation support, the fight against the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons, and the reinforcement of institutional capacity. The United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa has also been designated as the focal point for United Nations efforts in the fight against the Lord's Resistance Army.

65. In 2011, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa was requested by the Economic Community of Central African States to provide support for the implementation of the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition and all Parts and Components that can be used for their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly (Kinshasa Convention). The Centre provided assistance in areas such as guidance on the harmonization of national laws, and creation of a training curriculum and training manual for security forces and national commissions on control of small arms and light weapons.

66. The International Trade Centre continued to support the implementation of the pan-African cooperation programme on trade development and promotion with the Economic Community of Central African States. The programme supported the establishment, in 2011, of a regional apex body to advocate and lead private sector interests in the context of the Community's regional integration agenda, private-public dialogue and trade, including for women business networks.

Economic Cooperation Organization

67. In 2011, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Economic Cooperation Organization organized a number of events, most importantly in the areas of anti-corruption and drug trafficking. A meeting for the preparation of a regional threat assessment report on organized crime and terrorism is being planned for 2012.

68. UNEP assisted in the drafting of the project proposal entitled "Preparation of a regional programme for implementing the Framework Plan of Action on Environmental Cooperation and Global Warming for ECO Member States", adopted by the ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment in 2011.

69. In 2010, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) signed a memorandum of understanding with ECO and the Islamic Development Bank to strengthen their cooperation. Capacity-building workshops have been jointly organized to facilitate accession of ECO members to the United Nations transport agreements. ECO contributed to the ECE Euro-Asia Transport Linkages project, as well as to the

Inland Transport Committee and the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport.

70. FAO assisted ECO in the preparation and implementation of the Regional Programme for Food Security. In 2010, the Council of Ministers of ECO approved the establishment of various ECO-affiliated bodies and institutions to facilitate the implementation of this Programme.

Eurasian Economic Community

71. The Eurasian Economic Community continues to take active part in the Project Working Group on Water and Energy Resources organized by ECE within the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia.

72. WHO is working with the Russian Federation on the development of a memorandum of understanding for the provision of joint support to countries of the Eurasian Economic Community. Priority areas envisaged for collaboration are development and capacity-building in health-care systems; fighting epidemic, endemic and other diseases; maternal and child health; international standard-setting; and involvement of civil society.

International Organization of la Francophonie

73. United Nations system-wide cooperation with the International Organization of la Francophonie (IOF) continued in various areas, such as gender issues; early warning; crisis and conflict prevention; peacebuilding; human rights and the rule of law; media capacities-building; electoral assistance; multilingualism and cultural diversity; sustainable development; and the fight against HIV/AIDS.

74. The United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie coordinated their good offices and mediation efforts in support of national processes in several countries, including Chad, the Central African Republic and Guinea. In the Central African Republic, the Mediator and the IOF Special Envoy consulted closely with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. The Department of Political Affairs, through the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA), also worked with IOF to organize several regional events, notably the high-level conferences on elections and stability and on impunity, justice and human rights in 2011, as well as a forum on media, peace and security in West Africa in 2012.

75. The United Nations and IOF also cooperated in the area of electoral assistance, notably in Benin, Burkina Faso and Guinea. In Benin, the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs and IOF coordinated their efforts to assess electoral needs and to provide assistance in developing a new electoral register. In Guinea, IOF and the Electoral Assistance Division consulted regularly in respect of bringing coordinated support to the national electoral process.

76. In the area of peacekeeping, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and IOF continued their cooperation in order to better tap into francophone capacity. In this regard, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations conducted several advocacy and outreach activities in military and peacekeeping training centres in francophone countries. In addition, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

(UNIDIR) organized a seminar on the arms trade treaty negotiations in February 2012 targeting francophone peacekeeping experts.

77. In 2011, IOF and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights renewed their road map for cooperation in three areas: support to human rights mechanisms and instruments; mainstreaming a rights-based approach in conflict prevention, resolution and peacekeeping; and fostering diversity and combating discrimination in all its aspects.

78. In 2012, UN-Women and IOF signed a framework agreement for cooperation in francophone countries, focusing on combating and preventing violence against women.

79. In 2012, UNEP participated in the IOF Forum in Lyon, which aimed to formulate the IOF strategy for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. The main outcome of the meeting was a document entitled "Appel du Forum de Lyon", which provided francophone negotiators with key elements for responding to the outcome document of the Conference.

80. In the context of the IOF quadrennial planning cycle 2010-2013, IOF and the International Trade Centre co-financed a project on the development of intra- and interregional trade between countries of the Mekong region and francophone West Africa.

81. The World Intellectual Property Organization and IOF signed a memorandum of understanding in 2012 establishing a framework for cooperation between the two organizations, including on capacity-building, cultural creativity and innovation.

League of Arab States

82. The United Nations and the League of Arab States have increased their cooperation in response to the transformations experienced in the region since late 2010. The latest general meeting on cooperation, held between the organizations in 2012, provided an opportunity for assessing political developments, evaluating common projects and charting a common way forward. The outcome of the joint efforts were reflected in the innovative matrix of activities within the framework of United Nations-League of Arab States collaboration. Further, in 2012, the Secretary-General attended the Summit of the League of Arab States held in Baghdad.

83. In 2011, the United Nations, the League of Arab States and other organizations cooperated on the resolution of the Libyan crisis. The calls made by the League of Arab States for the establishment of a no-fly zone over Libya played a key role in the adoption of Security Council resolution 1973 (2011). The collaboration between the two organizations regarding the Syrian crisis focused on efforts to end the violence and facilitate a Syrian-led political transition. Acting on General Assembly resolution 66/253, the Secretaries-General of the two organizations named the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, as United Nations-League of Arab States Joint Special Envoy for Syria.

84. The United Nations and the League of Arab States are among the key international guarantors for the road map to ending the transition in Somalia. The League of Arab States has also pledged to work closely with the United Nations to

identify and support early recovery and development projects in Darfur, which can contribute to the restoration of peace and stability in the region.

85. In 2012, a regional workshop was held at League of Arab States headquarters on cooperation in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (see General Assembly resolution 60/288) and the Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism, with contributions from the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

86. As part of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Programme for the Arab States, joint projects are being developed with the League of Arab States to promote drug control and prevent crime and terrorism in the region, such as the Arab initiative to combat human trafficking. In 2012, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the League of Arab States organized two subregional counter-terrorism workshops focusing on the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism, and on the creation of an Arab judicial cooperation network.

87. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the League of Arab States signed a memorandum of understanding in 2010 to strengthen their partnership. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs provided training to the League of Arab States in areas including disaster risk reduction, and helped organize humanitarian events, such as the United Nations-League of Arab States sectoral meeting on humanitarian assistance, held in 2012.

88. UNHCR has supported the League of Arab States in updating the Arab Convention on Regulating Status of Refugees in the Arab Countries. The two organizations also held training sessions and workshops on refugee and migration issues.

89. The Secretary-General of the League of Arab States met with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in 2012 to discuss cooperation between the two entities. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights participated, as an observer, in the thirty-third session of the Arab Permanent Commission for Human Rights in 2012, where a decision was taken to convene a regional expert meeting on promoting Arab human rights instruments in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

90. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), UNEP and the League of Arab States jointly supported States members of the League of Arab States in their substantive preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. ESCWA and the League of Arab States have also collaborated on other projects, including the establishment of a Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group on Internet Governance in the region.

91. UNDP supports the League of Arab States in populating the Arab socioeconomic database, to be used primarily for monitoring development achievements. UNDP has also been involved in providing training on election management bodies to States members of the League of Arab States.

92. The International Trade Centre is part of an inter-agency project on Aid for Trade for the Arab States, developed under the leadership of the League of Arab States, with a view to strengthening trade capacities.

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

93. At the ministerial meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), held in Vilnius in 2011, the OSCE Secretary-General and the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs co-chaired a meeting with regional organizations on the Arab Spring. The OSCE Chairperson-in-Office briefed the Security Council in 2012 on priorities for the coming year, shortly after which the Secretaries-General of the two organizations met in Vienna. Also, in 2012, the United Nations and OSCE co-organized, together with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), an event, including senior representatives of regional and international organizations, to enable consultations on the development of the guidance for effective mediation, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/283.

94. The annual United Nations-OSCE staff-level meeting held in 2011 had concentrated on the events of the Arab Spring and the Middle East and North Africa region, whereas the meeting in 2012 focused on country cases of South-Eastern Europe as well as on regional perspectives, especially encompassing the South Caucasus and the western Balkans. Options for closer cooperation were also discussed at both meetings, in particular with regard to conflict prevention and mediation.

95. The United Nations and OSCE have continued to cooperate closely in South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The cooperation between the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and OSCE in encouraging the emergence of a political agreement in the run-up to the 2012 presidential and parliamentary elections in Serbia enabled OSCE facilitation of voting in Kosovo.

96. The United Nations maintains regular dialogue with OSCE in Afghanistan, particularly on issues of electoral support, counter-narcotics and rule of law. In 2012, the Secretary-General's Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime were invited to participate in the meeting of the OSCE Security Committee on Afghanistan.

97. In 2011, the Office for Disarmament Affairs organized a workshop in cooperation with OSCE on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) for Central Asian States. In an effort to increase technical cooperation in the implementation of this resolution, United Nations and OSCE signed a memorandum of understanding in 2011 on joint implementation of projects on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

98. In 2011 and 2012, OSCE participated in a number of regional workshops held by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on strengthening the implementation of recommendations emanating from the United Nations human rights mechanisms. The Office of the High Commissioner and OSCE have also met to discuss the human rights situation in particular States and to explore means of conducting information exchange and joint actions.

Organization of American States

99. The Department of Political Affairs and the Organization of American States (OAS) Secretariat continued to hold desk-to-desk dialogues; three such meetings were held between 2009 and 2012. In 2011, the Department of Political Affairs and OAS agreed on a one-year partnership aimed at strengthening the institutional capacities of both organizations on mediation and dialogue. This partnership is expected to be extended for another year in 2012.

100. The United Nations and OAS are members of the high-level electoral task force in Haiti and cooperated closely in providing assistance to the legislative and presidential elections in 2010 and 2011. OAS also provides direct assistance to the Government of Haiti on civil status registration.

101. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights held a coordination meeting and organized a regional consultation on the prevention of torture in 2011. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Inter-American Commission and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) prepared reports on citizen security and juvenile justice, providing recommendations on improving institutions, legislation and programmes in the region. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has facilitated cooperation between the Human Rights Council under its special procedures and rapporteurs of the Commission, particularly on issues relating to freedom of expression, torture and the rights of indigenous peoples.

102. UNEP cooperates with OAS in implementing three main projects: sustainable use of Rio Bravo; sustainable management of water resources of the La Plata Basin; and sustainable forest management in the Gran Chaco Americano Ecosystem.

103. The Office for Disarmament Affairs has cooperated with the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism on capacity-building and technical assistance related to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). As a first step in the implementation of their 2011 memorandum of understanding, the Office for Disarmament Affairs and OAS agreed to share information regarding States' reporting to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions.

104. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean works with OAS to combat illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons in the region. Upon a request from OAS, the Regional Centre prepared national comparative legislative studies in 2011 and 2012 to assess the extent to which the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials obligations is incorporated into national regulations.

105. Throughout 2010 and 2011, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) participated, as a core member, in the OAS-chaired Joint Summit Working Group, mandated to support the Summit of the Americas process, including preparations for the sixth Summit held in Cartagena, Colombia. ECLAC also contributed to the OAS Working Group on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons as it progresses towards the development of an inter-American convention. ECLAC, OAS and the Inter-American Development Bank collaborated

in the preparations for the fourth Pathways to Prosperity in the Americas Ministerial Meeting, in order to foster cooperation and promote competitiveness, economic growth and socially inclusive development in the Americas.

Organization of Islamic Cooperation

106. In 2012, the Secretary-General visited, for the first time, the headquarters of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). A general meeting on cooperation between the United Nations and OIC was held in Geneva in 2012. Both Organizations declared their strong commitment to reinforcing cooperation in areas of common interest, such as conflict prevention and mediation, human rights, humanitarian assistance and refugees, the fight against terrorism and intercultural dialogue. This strengthened spirit of cooperation manifested itself in the agreement on a matrix of activities within the framework of United Nations-OIC collaboration, to be implemented over the next biennium.

107. The United Nations has worked closely with OIC in efforts to restore peace and security in Somalia, Afghanistan and the Sudan/Darfur. OIC opened offices in Kabul and Mogadishu in 2011. In Afghanistan, OIC held discussions with UNAMA to support the intra-Afghan reconciliation process. The United Nations and OIC have worked together to facilitate negotiations between Darfuri armed movements and the Government of the Sudan.

108. In 2012, the United Nations and OIC agreed on a one-year partnership programme, which aims at enhancing their cooperation and exchange of experiences in the area of mediation and at strengthening the operational capacity of OIC in mediation through the establishment of a mediation unit.

109. The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and OIC explored possible areas of cooperation within the framework of Security Council resolution 1963 (2010), particularly with regard to the adoption of national counter-terrorism strategies. During the latest general meeting of the United Nations and OIC, in 2012, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and OIC agreed to co-organize an event on Council resolution 1624 (2005) in 2013. The Directorate also agreed to facilitate the engagement of OIC with the newly launched Global Counterterrorism Forum.

110. A memorandum of understanding and plan of action was signed by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and OIC in 2011. In 2010, an information-sharing and effective partnership platform was initiated to encourage regional dialogue among non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations and OIC. This initiative also prompted the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to establish a Gulf Liaison Office in 2011. On the operational level, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and OIC are working closely in Somalia and the Philippines and, more recently, in Syria, where the United Nations and OIC carried out a joint humanitarian needs assessment.

111. UNHCR and OIC worked closely in 2011 and 2012 on convening the OIC International Ministerial Conference on Refugees in the Muslim World (11 and 12 May 2012), the first OIC conference focusing on the refugee situation in the Muslim world. The resulting Ashgabat Declaration called on OIC member States to support

the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) financially and politically.

112. In 2012, following a request from OIC, OHCHR organized a visit to Geneva of Commissioners of the recently established OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission. The visit was designed to showcase the relevant human rights mechanisms and to explore means of enhancing cooperation between the two organizations.

113. In 2011 and 2012, ESCWA cooperated closely with a number of OIC bodies in activities aiming at capacity development and implementation of several energy projects, as well as providing technical support to OIC in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

114. In 2011 and 2012, UNEP focused its work with OIC on the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. UNEP provided technical support to the second meeting of the Islamic Executive Bureau for the Environment, held in March 2012, where the draft Islamic Declaration on Sustainable Development was approved.

115. WHO has been working closely with OIC in efforts to eradicate poliomyelitis in the region, through mobilizing resources to fund campaigns, securing support from religious leaders for immunization campaigns and strengthening political commitments.

116. The International Trade Centre has been closely involved in consultations on, and implementation of, the OIC road map for promoting intra-OIC trade.

Pacific Islands Forum

117. In 2011, the Secretary-General participated, for the first time, in the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting, in Auckland, New Zealand. In a joint statement adopted at the meeting, the Secretary-General and the Forum leaders agreed on the importance of sustainable economic growth in achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the Pacific; stressed the most prominent environmental concerns of the region; acknowledged the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of peace and security and the contribution of the Forum in addressing these challenges; and noted the value of enhanced cooperation between the two organizations.

118. In 2011, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate led a workshop in the Pacific region on preventing the abuse of non-profit organizations and charities for the purpose of financing terrorism. In 2012, the Executive Directorate facilitated a subregional workshop for Forum States on the control of physical cross-border transportation of cash and bearer-negotiable instruments.

119. The holding of the FAO Round Table Meeting with Pacific Islands Forum countries is planned for 2012, with a view to achieving an understanding of the impact of key trade agreements on the region. FAO continues to collaborate with the Forum in a wide array of areas, including plant protection, animal health and production and agriculture education.

120. ILO cooperation with the Pacific Islands Forum focuses on training and advisory programmes, such as the Pacific youth employment strategy; the

Programme on decent work for persons with disabilities; and the Programme on combating HIV/AIDS in the workplace.

121. UNDP and the Forum worked closely together in the lead-up to the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, where the two organizations coordinated policy advice to Member States in the preparation of regional and country briefs.

122. UNEP currently implements several environmental projects in the Pacific islands, including those on implementing sustainable integrated water resource and wastewater management in the Pacific Island countries; and the ozone action programme regional hydrochlorofluorocarbon phase-out management plan (2011-2020).

123. The Office for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific provided substantive support to the Pacific regional workshop on small arms and light weapons and the arms trade treaty, jointly organized in 2012 by the Forum, the Government of Australia and Oxfam Australia in Brisbane.

124. In 2011, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Forum developed a regional programme on counter-terrorism, which aims to strengthen the legal framework in the area so as to ensure rule-of-law based criminal justice responses to acts of terrorism.

125. The ESCAP Pacific Office supports the United Nations-Pacific agenda agreed at the meeting between the Secretary-General and the Pacific Islands Forum leaders in September 2011. The Pacific Office is a core member of the Sustainable Development Working Group under the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific, and is taking a lead role in establishing joint United Nations-Council processes designed to provide a regional framework for implementing global outcomes in the Pacific, including support for sustainable development in Pacific island States. The Pacific Office is also actively engaged in the Forum-led Cairns Compact on promoting coherence in development cooperation and aid effectiveness in Pacific island countries.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization

126. In 2012, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Asia attended the Meeting of the Council of the Heads of State of Shanghai Cooperation Organization member States in Beijing.

127. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization, along with its regional partners, are participating in a project organized by the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force whose aim is to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in the region.

128. In 2012, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization took part in the visit of the Counter-Terrorism Committee to Kyrgyzstan, led by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, with the aim of monitoring the progress made by Kyrgyzstan in implementing Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), as well as identifying shortfalls and technical assistance needs.

129. In 2011, a memorandum of understanding was signed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization with a view to identifying areas for cooperation. The Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime participated in and contributed to an international workshop organized by the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, held in Tashkent in 2011. The workshop focused on activities of terrorist organizations in the region and measures of anti-terrorism security. Furthermore, in 2011, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime signed a protocol of cooperation with the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure in order to increase the effectiveness of coordinated action against terrorism, through the exchange of expertise and information, and the organization of joint events.

130. WHO and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization agreed to carry out activities in areas such as regional public-health security through implementation of the International Health Regulations; public-health response during natural disasters and humanitarian crises; and cooperation in the field of environmental health protection and control.

Southern African Development Community

131. In 2010, the Department of Political Affairs and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat signed off on a framework for cooperation in the areas of early warning and electoral assistance. The Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs has rendered technical capacity-building support to SADC, particularly to its Electoral Support Unit, and for the establishment of the SADC Electoral Advisory Council.

132. UNDP, in collaboration with other United Nations entities, developed a self-assessment tool called the Environmental Assessment Barometer and guidelines on integrating HIV and gender issues into environmental impact assessments of large capital projects, which was adopted by SADC to assist Member States in improving the practice of environmental impact assessments. UNDP has also provided support to the HIV mainstreaming unit of SADC in respect of its developing a set of key outcome indicators which can be used in the monitoring, evaluating and reporting of HIV responses in the region.

III. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons; and Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

133. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is a regular participant in events organized by the Office for Disarmament Affairs on weapons of mass destruction-related issues, including the promotion of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

134. In 2010, the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization provided support to

the Fifth Ministerial Meeting to promote the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. In 2011, the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Preparatory Commission jointly organized the Seventh Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in New York.

135. The Office for Disarmament Affairs organized an inter-agency meeting on disarmament and non-proliferation education in 2012 to encourage the United Nations and other international organizations, including the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, to make timely submissions to the Secretary-General, to inform his report on this issue.

United Nations A/67/281

General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 August 2012

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Item 70 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Promotion and protection of human rights: implementation of human rights instruments

Status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/229, provides an overview of the status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It contains a list of signatories, ratifications or accessions to the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto, information on the work of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and reporting on the ongoing efforts of Governments towards the ratification and implementation of the Convention. The report also presents an overview of the progress made by the entities of the United Nations system towards implementation of the Convention and describes relevant activities by non-governmental organizations.

* A/67/150.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 66/229, the General Assembly requested that the Secretary-General submit to it, at its sixty-seventh session, a report on the status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto.

II. Status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto

2. Since the previous report on the status of the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto (A/66/121), and as at 1 August 2012, there have been an additional 13 ratifications, 4 accessions and 4 signatories to the Convention. There have also been an additional 5 ratifications and 5 accessions to the Optional Protocol, with no new signatories.

3. At the date of submission of the present report, there were a total of 119 States parties and 153 signatories to the Convention since its opening for signature on 30 March 2007. There were 71 States parties and 90 signatories to the Optional Protocol. The list of signatories and ratifications or accessions is contained in the annex to the present report.[1]

4. Among the 119 States parties to the Convention, 33 are from the African Group, 28 from the Asian Group, 18 from the Eastern European Group, 22 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group and 17 from the Western European and Others Group. The European Union, as a regional integration organization, is also a State party to the Convention.

5. During the reporting period, Member States continued to harmonize national laws, enact new legislation and create national focal points in order to promote the ratification of or accession to the Convention or in support of its implementation.

6. From its inception, the Convention has been envisaged as an instrument both for the promotion of human rights and for the realization of the goal of an inclusive society and an inclusive development model. In addition, Member States may be guided by the Convention in their efforts to implement the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, the General Assembly, in its resolution 66/124, decided to hold a one-day high-level meeting of the General Assembly on disability and development on 23 September 2013 to promote concerted action towards a disability-inclusive post-2015 development framework. The United Nations system is strengthening its efforts in the area of disability-inclusive policy and programming at all levels and encouraging multi-stakeholder partnerships to strengthen the mainstreaming of disability and the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society and development.

[1] The figures include the ratification of the Convention and the Optional Protocol by the European Union.

III. Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

7. The fourth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was held at United Nations Headquarters from 7 to 9 September 2011 on the theme: "Enabling development, realizing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities". Two round tables were held on "Realizing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities through international cooperation", and "Ensuring effective and full participation in political and public life". There was also an informal meeting entitled "Realizing the right to work and employment".[2]

8. Throughout the fourth session, there was an ongoing interactive dialogue on United Nations support for the implementation of the Convention. The escalating level of international participation in the Conference has made it the largest, most diverse global forum on the rights of persons with disabilities. Over 40 side events were held during the two-and-a-half days of the Conference.

9. At the time of submission of the present report, preparations are under way for the fifth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention, to be held at United Nations Headquarters from 12 to 14 September 2012, on the theme, "Making the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities count for women and children". The session will include discussions on children with disabilities, technology and accessibility, and women with disabilities. The session will also include an interactive dialogue on the implementation of the Convention by the entities of the United Nations system. During the session, elections will be conducted for nine members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to replace those whose terms are due to expire on 31 December 2012.

IV. Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

10. Since the submission of the previous report in 2011, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has held its sixth (19-23 September 2011) and seventh (16-20 April 2012) sessions.

11. During its sixth session, the Committee adopted concluding observations on Spain (CRPD/C/ESP/CO/1) and Peru (CRPD/C/PER/CO/1). During its seventh session, the Committee adopted lists of issues on the initial reports of Argentina, China and Hungary. It also presented, for the first time, its views on an individual communication submitted under the Optional Protocol to the Convention, and endorsed the outcome document of the Dublin II Meeting on Strengthening the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Body System.[3]

12. During its sixty-sixth session, by its resolution 66/229, the General Assembly authorized an additional week of meeting time per year for the work of the Committee.

13. Information on the work of the Committee is available on the website of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in

[2] See CRPD/CSP/2011/2.

[3] See http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/HRTD/docs/DublinII_Outcome_Document.pdf.

2011 (www.ohchr.org), including a fact sheet on the procedure for submitting communications to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities under the Optional Protocol to the Convention and guidelines for submission of communications to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities under the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

V. Activities undertaken in support of the Convention

14. As part of the preparations for the present report, Member States were requested to provide information concerning their status with regard to the signing, ratification and implementation of the Convention and its Optional Protocol. During the reporting period, the Secretariat received 17 submissions from Governments,[4] as well as 18 from agencies[5] and 4 from civil society organizations.[6] The present section may be read in conjunction with the information contained in the previous report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (A/66/121).

A. Member States

1. Progress towards ratification

15. A number of signatories to the Convention reported having taken steps towards ratification:

(a) In December 2009, Japan established the Ministerial Board for Disability Policy Reform. In August 2011, the Board promulgated the revised Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities, with a view to promoting ratification of the Convention;

(b) In December 2010, Switzerland initiated formal consultations on accession to the Convention and reported that it would forward the outcome of the consultation process, which concluded in April 2011, to Parliament for a formal decision.

[4] Submissions were received from the following Member States: Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Mexico, Mozambique, Paraguay, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Togo and Uruguay. A submission was also received from the Cook Islands, which is a non-member State of the United Nations, although a member State of a number of United Nations specialized agencies.

[5] The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, OHCHR, the United Nations Mine Action Service, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Bank and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

[6] Disabled People's International, International Disability Alliance, International Disability and Development Consortium and Leonard Cheshire Disability.

2. Harmonization of domestic legislation, policies and monitoring the implementation

16. Several States parties to the Convention reported progress in the harmonization of domestic legislation in compliance with the Convention:

(a) Brazil established its National Human Rights Office under the Office of the President to monitor the implementation of the Convention;

(b) Burkina Faso adopted a law on the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities;

(c) Canada noted that all jurisdictions have strong equality and non-discrimination protection for persons with disabilities, which is embodied in section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and in federal, provincial and territorial human rights legislation;

(d) Mexico adopted a general law in May 2011 on the social inclusion of persons with disabilities, which reaffirmed the human rights of persons with disabilities in all aspects of life and development. Mexico has also launched a national mechanism, with budget allocations, for implementing and monitoring national policies and action plans for the inclusion of persons with disabilities;

(e) Paraguay adopted a law requiring public institutions to reserve at least 5 per cent of staff positions for persons with disabilities. Paraguay is also currently working on the creation of a national secretariat for the human rights of persons with disabilities;

(f) Spain approved a regulation regarding basic conditions for the participation of persons with disabilities in political and electoral processes;

(g) Uruguay adopted a law for the comprehensive protection of persons with disabilities. Under its terms, an honorary national commission on disability will be established for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of national policies relating to persons with disabilities. Uruguay has also established a consultative council on disability, which will provide a mechanism ensuring that organizations of persons with disabilities may take part in relevant processes.

3. National policies for implementation of the Convention

17. Several States reported on progress in developing and strengthening both national policy frameworks for the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities as well as practices for implementing and monitoring the Convention:

(a) Brazil launched a national plan for the rights of persons with disabilities, "Living without limits", in November 2011. The plan is organized around four themes: education, health, social inclusion and accessibility;

(b) The Cook Islands National Disability Council was established in partnership with the Ministry of Internal Affairs to improve the coordination of services for persons with disabilities. The Government specifically addressed the issues faced by women and girls with disabilities in its National Gender Policy 2011. The workplan of the Cook Islands National Council of Women also considers the inclusion of women with disabilities in its organizational activities;

(c) The Ministry of Labour and Social Policies of Italy, in cooperation with the National Statistics Institute, launched a website to make data on persons with

disabilities available to the general public. In December 2011, the General Directorate for Social Inclusion and Social Policies of the Ministry signed an agreement with the National Statistics Institute in compliance with article 31 of the Convention;

(d) Indonesia is currently implementing its national plan of action on persons with disabilities 2004-2013, which is part of its commitment to realize the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action Towards an Inclusive, Barrier-Free and Rights-Based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific;

(e) Latvia reported that it is preparing a strategic document, "Basic principles of implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for 2013-2019", in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities;

(f) Mexico launched a national programme in April 2012 outlining a series of strategies to prevent and eliminate discrimination. The programme will promote the progressive removal of barriers preventing persons with disabilities from accessing Federal buildings, and will seek to foster a culture of respect for the human rights of persons with disabilities. Mexico has also launched guidelines for accessible websites, particularly directed at Federal employees;

(g) Mozambique is currently developing its second national action plan for disability 2012-2019, which is informed by various national and international instruments and inputs from all stakeholders, including organizations of persons with disabilities, faith-based organizations and the private sector. A range of awareness-raising campaigns, vocational and education training programmes have also been implemented;

(h) Qatar launched its national development strategy (2011-2016), which included social protection for persons with disabilities. The national population policy, introduced in 2010, focused on the empowerment of persons with disabilities through anti-discrimination measures and equal-employment opportunities. Qatar also conducted several information and communications technology initiatives to promote both the inclusion of persons with disabilities and the implementation of the Convention;

(i) The Republic of Korea included women with disabilities in its five-year policy development plan for persons with disabilities and in its basic plan for women's policy. It also introduced a disability pension system, improved its disability registration and assessment system, expanded housing services for persons with disabilities and took additional measures for persons with disabilities relating to economic opportunities, the right to education and culture and web accessibility;

(j) Spain adopted a strategy (2012-2020) to advance universal accessibility. A principal objective of the strategy is to ensure access by persons with disabilities to transport, information technologies, communication systems and other services, on an equal basis with the general population;

(k) Togo ratified the Convention in March 2011. The Government of Togo has adopted a strategy on poverty reduction that takes into account the needs of persons with disabilities in relation to health, employment and education. It has also adopted a plan on education that includes accessibility measures for children with disabilities;

(l) Uruguay is currently developing a national plan on equalization of opportunities and rights for persons with disabilities that will facilitate access to health, education, work and housing for persons with disabilities.

B. United Nations system

18. Over the reporting period, the United Nations system continued to promote and support Member States in the ratification and implementation of the Convention through awareness-raising, the provision of capacity-building and technical cooperation.

19. United Nations entities have endeavoured to include disability within their respective areas of work. Several agencies have developed global strategies on disability and inclusive development and have disseminated guiding principles in relation to persons with disabilities for their workplace; others have established focal points and created special posts focusing on disability issues.

20. The United Nations system has strengthened collaborations and partnerships between its entities and with other stakeholders to promote the Convention and its implementation. Since the last report of the Secretary-General (A/66/121), the Inter-Agency Support Group on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has developed a roll-out strategy for the United Nations Development Group guidance note on including the rights of persons with disabilities in United Nations programming at the country level. In accordance with the strategy, the Support Group will continue to develop training tools and other relevant materials, and to support use of the guidance note as a critical tool for advancing the rights of persons with disabilities in the work of United Nations country teams.

1. Promoting accessibility: human resources, information and physical facilities

21. Accessibility is one of the general principles essential for the successful implementation of the Convention. The General Assembly has recognized accessibility as a priority issue, and has called repeatedly for an accessible United Nations. In response, the Secretariat has sought to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities in the work of the United Nations. In 2010, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in conjunction with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and OHCHR, established the United Nations Interdepartmental Task Force on Accessibility to develop a comprehensive policy on accessibility for the Secretariat. The policy would seek to enable the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of the work of the United Nations by promoting inclusive and accessible built environments, facilities, human resources, conferences and services on all United Nations premises.

22. The Interdepartmental Task Force on Accessibility has reviewed the policies and practices of other United Nations organizations and entities to identify possible solutions, as well as obstacles and gaps that might hinder the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities in the work of the Organization. The Task Force has identified, as a possible solution, the provision of closed captioning and sign language interpretation for United Nations meetings and the delivery of official United Nations documentation in an accessible format through the use of appropriate information, communications, voice-recognition and publishing technologies. Closed captioning in English and Portuguese and in Brazilian sign language were made

available at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio in June 2012, where, in addition, documents for the conference were made accessible on screen readers and in Braille.

23. The Interdepartmental Task Force has also identified the urgent need for a fund to support the accessibility needs of persons with disabilities in their workplace. Such a fund could be used, for example, to provide accessible communications technologies, such as hearing devices and screen readers, or for the retrofitting of buildings. Accessibility funds have already been established by several organizations of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Bank.

24. In April 2012, the Human Rights Council endorsed the report of the task force on secretariat services of the United Nations Office at Geneva on enhancing the accessibility of the Council and its mechanisms.[7] The report included a set of recommendations on accessibility and information technology for persons with disabilities, and suggested measures to be taken by relevant actors at the Geneva office.

25. A number of United Nations agencies have provided information on measures taken to improve the accessibility of their physical facilities. Some agencies have retrofitted their premises and have ensured that the design phase of new construction includes accessibility features in conformity with host-country regulations. Other United Nations entities reported a wide range of efforts to advance accessibility by providing or developing accessibility guidelines, preparing information material in accessible format and promoting accessible information and communications technology.

26. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) worked with the Barbados Council for the Disabled to provide accessible information and services to persons with disabilities and to increase awareness of sexual and reproductive health issues and rights. The programme was designed to sensitize parents, health workers, social workers, peer educators and guidance counsellors to the human and reproductive rights of adolescents with disabilities by equipping them with accessible information, educational and communications material.

27. In 2011, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) adopted a policy on persons with disabilities in the FAO workplace, applicable to the recruitment process for persons with disabilities as well as their employment with FAO. The policy has provided relevant parameters, including reasonable accommodation. Since 2010, FAO has also taken measures to advance the accessibility of its physical facilities, including the upgrading of lifts and the construction of accessible restroom facilities.

28. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is revising its existing guidelines on the implementation of international Standards and Recommended Practices, as contained in annex 9 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation entitled "Facilitation, relating to persons with disabilities". The recommended practices set out the measures that States and various stakeholders, including airports, aircraft operators, ground-handling operators and travel agents, should take to assist persons with disabilities in the course of their travel itinerary. The material,

[7] A/HRC/DEC/19/119.

which is intended to assist the civil aviation community in the day-to-day application of recommended practices, is to be published in early 2013.

29. In 2011, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) prepared a global report on *ICTs in Education for Persons with Disabilities*. The report provided an overview and critical assessment of the use of information and communications technology in education for persons with disabilities, both in policy and practice, based on five regional studies, and highlighted case studies and best practices from these studies.

30. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has launched a dedicated website (www.visionip.org) as a platform for attracting support, exchanging views and disseminating information in the field of intellectual property aimed at facilitating access for the blind, visually impaired and other reading-impaired persons to information and cultural content. WIPO has developed a number of activities to foster a practical understanding of the ways in which the intellectual property system can best meet the needs of the visually impaired by improving timely access to copyright-protected content.

31. In October 2011, at its nineteenth session, the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization adopted a resolution on accessible tourism, in which it requested its secretariat to prepare accessibility guidelines for various areas of the tourism industry.

2. Awareness-raising

32. The International Day of Persons with Disabilities, which is commemorated annually both at United Nations Headquarters and around the world, promotes a better understanding of disability issues, helps mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities and advances awareness of and support for the Convention. The annual event at Headquarters includes the United Nations Enable film festival, where short films from around the world raise awareness of disability issues and promote the fuller, more effective participation of persons with disabilities in society.

33. By its resolution 66/149, the General Assembly declared 21 March World Down Syndrome Day, beginning in 2012, with a view to promoting the well-being and inclusion of persons with Down syndrome in society and development and raising awareness about the condition. On 21 March 2012, a multi-stakeholder event was held at Headquarters, organized by Down Syndrome International in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other stakeholders.

34. In conjunction with the eleventh session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, held at Headquarters from 7 to 18 May 2012, an interactive panel discussion was held on the theme "Indigenous persons with disabilities: overcoming challenges to achieving rights and inclusion in development". The event was organized by Disability Rights Fund, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and sponsored by the Government of Australia.

35. OHCHR organized the third interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities in March 2011 to raise awareness of the significant contribution of international cooperative efforts to the realization of the objectives of the Convention. The debate also highlighted challenges and lessons learned regarding international cooperation within the context of the Convention, inter alia, in relation

to mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities into the field of development cooperation and humanitarian action.

36. The Economic Commission for Africa publication, *African Youth Report 2011: Addressing the youth education and employment nexus in the new global economy*, recognized disability as one of the least visible, yet most pertinent, factors in the educational marginalization of children and youth. The report was a catalyst for the conference "African Youth with Disabilities: Raising our Voices for Inclusion", organized by African youth groups in Nairobi in 2011.

37. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, at its sixty-eighth session in 2012, proclaimed the period from 2013 to 2022 the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities (Commission resolution 68/7). In addition, the Commission campaign to "Make the Right Real!", aimed at accelerating the ratification and implementation of the Convention in the Asia and the Pacific region, has helped initiate national campaigns in Bangladesh, India, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea. The campaigns have also led to the formation of two subregional organizations of persons with disabilities, the South Asian Disability Forum and the Central Asian Disability Forum.

38. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has launched a Diversity Awards initiative to promote diversity and inclusive employment in the workplace. Each prize, for which disability-inclusiveness is considered one of the selection criteria, comes with a certificate and a monetary award to support further diversity initiatives. Winning submissions are posted on the UNDP intranet as models for other UNDP offices to follow.

39. The UNESCO publication, *Implementing the Right to Education: A compendium of practical examples*, analysed input from Member States on the implementation of the Convention and provided recommendations to address discrimination in education, including the implementation of the right to education for persons with disabilities. Practical examples included legislative and administrative measures and policies and programmes aimed at ensuring the inclusion in education of persons with disabilities. The results of a new consultation on the implementation of those instruments, launched in September 2011, will be published by the end of 2013.

3. Capacity-building

40. In response to the requests of Member States, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has continued to provide technical advice and assistance regarding the design of strategies, policies and programmes for disability-inclusive development. In November 2010, the Department and OHCHR collaborated with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in conducting a capacity-development workshop in Trinidad and Tobago. In September 2011, at the request of the UNDP country office in Croatia, the Department and OHCHR jointly conducted a workshop on the implementation of the Convention for western Balkan countries. In cooperation with OHCHR and the Economic Commission for Africa, the Department is currently implementing a project, in coordination with the Governments of with Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa and Zambia, to support the capacity development of Governments and disabled people's organizations to promote implementation of the Convention.

41. In November 2010, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean held a subregional meeting, including a training workshop, on the implementation of the Convention. The training provided information and tools regarding the mainstreaming of the disability issue at the national level through accessibility audits and improving the collection of disability data and statistics.[8]

42. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia has initiated a project to collect data and statistics on disability, including information on disability policies, legislation, programmes and services, and to build national capacity to collect, analyse and disseminate such data. The Commission has established, in collaboration with Member States, a network of national focal points to collect and compile national data and information on persons with disabilities.

43. The United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is a new collaborative effort established by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, ILO, OHCHR, UNDP, UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO). In December 2011, the Disability Partnership launched a multi-donor trust fund to mobilize resources for its global efforts to promote and implement the Convention. In May 2012, the first Disability Partnership Fund call for proposals was issued to 37 United Nations country teams.

44. OHCHR has continued to provide support to States parties to the Convention in reviewing national legislation and policies on disability to ensure their consistency with the Convention and its Optional Protocol. For example, the human rights component of the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) has, in collaboration with OHCHR, provided technical support to the Government of Sierra Leone in drafting the Persons with Disability Act, enacted in March 2011. OHCHR also worked with the Government of the Republic of Moldova in developing a draft law on the social inclusion of persons with disabilities.

45. The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) has conducted initiatives in several countries in support of the implementation of the Convention. In 2011, the National Mine Action Centre in the Sudan conducted an advocacy programme on the Convention, promoting a better understanding of the national law for the disabled. The Centre also supported the establishment of the National Council for Disabled Persons to monitor and report on the implementation of the Convention.

46. In Albania, 140 participants from Government and civil society organizations were trained, with support from UNFPA, on disability rights and approaches to mainstreaming disability in national development policies and programmes.

47. In 2011, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) launched a global training series in Bangladesh, India and Uganda to raise awareness of disability issues and promote inclusion of disability in national programmes. Training workshops brought together UNHCR and partner staff, refugees with disabilities and national disabled persons' organizations to exchange information and develop joint action plans to increase access to protection and services. UNHCR is also developing an e-learning course on diversity, which includes disabilities, to be available to all UNHCR staff. It has also conducted disability-inclusion workshops in several countries in 2011 and 2012.

[8] See http://www.eclac.org/publicaciones.

48. During the reporting period, UNICEF provided capacity-building training on the Convention and other international human rights instruments for Government officials in Oman. The training focused specifically on the development of a national plan of action on persons with disabilities. In January 2011, UNICEF held an initial orientation on the rights of persons with disabilities at its headquarters in order to sensitize its staff to the critical importance of disability rights, both for the implementation of the Convention and for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. A web-based staff-orientation module on disability, which is currently being finalized, will be rolled out to all UNICEF staff later in 2012.

49. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) prepared a draft UNAIDS Strategy for integrating disability into country-level HIV programmes, providing strategic approaches to addressing the policy and programmatic needs of people living with HIV who also have disabilities.

50. In November 2011, UNESCO held a subregional workshop in Antigua and Barbuda to promote inclusive education. The participants in the workshop were mainly curriculum planners, inclusive education experts and other experts from UNESCO member States. In close cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities of Jordan, UNESCO implemented a project to improve the quality of education of children with hearing disabilities and to raise awareness of their concerns.

51. In June 2011, WHO launched a "QualityRights Tool Kit" to assess and improve the quality of care and protect the human rights of persons with mental health and disabilities living in social-care facilities. Its aim was to provide Member States with information on quality and human rights standards in care facilities that must be respected, protected and fulfilled.[9]

52. The World Bank is preparing a study on disability and employment in the Latin American and Caribbean region. In follow-up to the first *World Report on Disability 2011*, prepared jointly by the World Bank and WHO, the two entities are developing a model disability survey aimed at improving disability measurement and data collection. In addition, the World Bank held an inaugural five-day course on disability and development for staff members and technical counterparts working in national ministries at its headquarters.

C. Civil society organizations

53. Civil society organizations, especially organizations of persons with disabilities, which played an active role in the drafting and negotiation processes for the Convention, continue to be instrumental in its ratification and implementation at the international, regional and grass-roots levels. International disability organizations often have networks of members and membership organizations around the world that work to raise awareness about disability issues and the Convention. Such networks are also actively involved in monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Convention.

54. In conjunction with the fourth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention in September 2011, a civil society forum was organized by the

[9] See http://www.who.int/mental_health/policy/quality_rights/en/index.html.

International Disability Alliance in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Alliance also held a seminar in Geneva in November 2011, with a view to establishing implementation guidelines on the Convention. The Alliance is currently leading a capacity-development project focused on training leaders and trainers from organizations of persons with disabilities on the implementation of the Convention.

55. The Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), in cooperation with Disabled People's International, prepared the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: 2010 ICT Accessibility Progress Report*. The report presents the progress made by countries in promoting ICT accessibility in alignment with the articles of the Convention.

56. In March 2012, the United Kingdom-based organization Leonard Cheshire Disability, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, held a conference entitled "Disability-Inclusive Millennium Development Goals and Aid Effectiveness", using the Convention as a guiding principle. The conference which was held in Bangkok, drew 350 delegates from 65 countries, including representatives of Governments, United Nations system organizations, academia, non-governmental organizations and disabled people's organizations, who discussed options to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities in international development initiatives. The conference concluded with a statement calling upon Governments to consult with persons with disabilities to develop new and inclusive frameworks for the post-2015 development agenda.

57. The Pan-African Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry deliberated the importance of the Convention and mental health reform in Africa during its international congress held in Cape Town, South Africa, in October 2011. The congress culminated in the Cape Town Declaration, which was presented at the second summit of the Movement for Global Mental Health and at the World Mental Health Congress of the World Federation for Mental Health, both held in Cape Town in 2011.

D. Multi-stakeholder partnerships

58. The Global Partnership for Disability and Development held its Third Forum on Disability and Development and its membership meeting in Buenos Aires in September 2011. Members and partners focused on options for action towards the social and economic inclusion of people with disabilities, within the framework of article 32 of the Convention. Development partners discussed challenges in disability-inclusive development and explored options towards the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals.

59. The AIDS and Disability Partners Forum, organized by UNAIDS in collaboration with the Global Partnership for Disability and Development, the Governments of Canada and the United States of America and United Nations entities, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, was held in conjunction with the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on AIDS, which was held in New York from 8 to 10 June 2011. Participants in the Forum highlighted the importance of the Convention, which provides a framework for the integration of AIDS programming for persons with disabilities. In the outcome document of the High-level Meeting, the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS (resolution 65/277),

Member States specifically called for the adoption of the Convention, recognized the need to take into account the rights of persons with disabilities, noted with concern that programmes in prevention, treatment, care and support have been either inadequately targeted or made inaccessible to persons with disabilities and committed themselves to ensuring that financial resources for prevention are targeted to the specific needs of persons with disabilities.

Annex

List of signatories, ratifications or accessions to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto, as of 1 August 2012

A. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Participant	*Signature*	*Ratification or accession*
Albania	22 December 2009	
Algeria	30 March 2007	4 December 2009
Andorra	27 April 2007	
Antigua and Barbuda	30 March 2007	
Argentina	30 March 2007	2 September 2008
Armenia	30 March 2007	22 September 2010
Australia	30 March 2007	17 July 2008
Austria	30 March 2007	26 September 2008
Azerbaijan	9 January 2008	28 January 2009
Bahrain	25 June 2007	22 September 2011
Bangladesh	9 May 2007	30 November 2007
Barbados	19 July 2007	
Belgium	30 March 2007	2 July 2009
Belize	9 May 2011	2 June 2011
Benin	8 February 2008	5 July 2012
Bhutan	21 September 2010	
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	13 August 2007	16 November 2009
Bosnia and Herzegovina	29 July 2009	12 March 2010
Brazil	30 March 2007	1 August 2008
Brunei Darussalam	18 December 2007	
Bulgaria	27 September 2007	22 March 2012
Burkina Faso	23 May 2007	23 July 2009
Burundi	26 April 2007	
Cambodia	1 October 2007	

Participant	*Signature*	*Ratification or accession*
Cameroon	1 October 2008	
Canada	30 March 2007	11 March 2010
Cape Verde	30 March 2007	10 October 2011
Central African Republic	9 May 2007	
Chile	30 March 2007	29 July 2008
China	30 March 2007	1 August 2008
Colombia	30 March 2007	10 May 2011
Comoros	26 September 2007	
Congo	30 March 2007	
Cook Islands		8 May 2009*
Costa Rica	30 March 2007	1 October 2008
Côte d'Ivoire	7 June 2007	
Croatia	30 March 2007	15 August 2007
Cuba	26 April 2007	6 September 2007
Cyprus	30 March 2007	27 June 2011
Czech Republic	30 March 2007	28 September 2009
Denmark	30 March 2007	24 July 2009
Djibouti		18 June 2012*
Dominica	30 March 2007	
Dominican Republic	30 March 2007	18 August 2009
Ecuador	30 March 2007	3 April 2008
Egypt	4 April 2007	14 April 2008
El Salvador	30 March 2007	14 December 2007
Estonia	25 September 2007	30 May 2012
Ethiopia	30 March 2007	7 July 2010
European Union	30 March 2007	23 December 2010
Fiji	2 June 2010	
Finland	30 March 2007	
France	30 March 2007	18 February 2010

Participant	*Signature*	*Ratification or accession*
Gabon	30 March 2007	1 October 2007
Georgia	10 July 2009	
Germany	30 March 2007	24 February 2009
Ghana	30 March 2007	31 July 2012
Greece	30 March 2007	31 May 2012
Grenada	12 July 2010	
Guatemala	30 March 2007	7 April 2009
Guinea	16 May 2007	8 February 2008
Guyana	11 April 2007	
Haiti		23 July 2009*
Honduras	30 March 2007	14 April 2008
Hungary	30 March 2007	20 July 2007
Iceland	30 March 2007	
India	30 March 2007	1 October 2007
Indonesia	30 March 2007	30 November 2011
Iran (Islamic Republic of)		23 October 2009*
Ireland	30 March 2007	
Israel	30 March 2007	
Italy	30 March 2007	15 May 2009
Jamaica	30 March 2007	30 March 2007
Japan	28 September 2007	
Jordan	30 March 2007	31 March 2008
Kazakhstan	11 December 2008	
Kenya	30 March 2007	19 May 2008
Kyrgyzstan	21 September 2011	
Lao People's Democratic Republic	15 January 2008	25 September 2009
Latvia	18 July 2008	1 March 2010
Lebanon	14 June 2007	
Lesotho		2 December 2008*

Participant	*Signature*	*Ratification or accession*
Liberia	30 March 2007	26 July 2012
Libya	1 May 2008	
Lithuania	30 March 2007	18 August 2010
Luxembourg	30 March 2007	26 September 2011
Madagascar	25 September 2007	
Malawi	27 September 2007	27 August 2009
Malaysia	8 April 2008	19 July 2010
Maldives	2 October 2007	5 April 2010
Mali	15 May 2007	7 April 2008
Malta	30 March 2007	
Mauritania		3 April 2012*
Mauritius	25 September 2007	8 January 2010
Mexico	30 March 2007	17 December 2007
Micronesia (Federated States of)	23 September 2011	
Monaco	23 September 2009	
Mongolia		13 May 2009*
Montenegro	27 September 2007	2 November 2009
Morocco	30 March 2007	8 April 2009
Mozambique	30 March 2007	30 January 2012
Myanmar		7 December 2011*
Namibia	25 April 2007	4 December 2007
Nauru		27 June 2012*
Nepal	3 January 2008	7 May 2010
Netherlands	30 March 2007	
New Zealand	30 March 2007	25 September 2008
Nicaragua	30 March 2007	7 December 2007
Niger	30 March 2007	24 June 2008
Nigeria	30 March 2007	24 September 2010
Norway	30 March 2007	

Participant	*Signature*	*Ratification or accession*
Oman	17 March 2008	6 January 2009
Pakistan	25 September 2008	5 July 2011
Palau	20 September 2011	
Panama	30 March 2007	7 August 2007
Papua New Guinea	2 June 2011	
Paraguay	30 March 2007	3 September 2008
Peru	30 March 2007	30 January 2008
Philippines	25 September 2007	15 April 2008
Poland	30 March 2007	
Portugal	30 March 2007	23 September 2009
Qatar	9 July 2007	13 May 2008
Republic of Korea	30 March 2007	11 December 2008
Republic of Moldova	30 March 2007	21 September 2010
Romania	26 September 2007	31 January 2011
Russian Federation	24 September 2008	
Rwanda		15 December 2008*
Saint Lucia	22 September 2011	
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		29 October 2010*
San Marino	30 March 2007	22 February 2008
Saudi Arabia		24 June 2008*
Senegal	25 April 2007	7 September 2010
Serbia	17 December 2007	31 July 2009
Seychelles	30 March 2007	2 October 2009
Sierra Leone	30 March 2007	4 October 2010
Slovakia	26 September 2007	26 May 2010
Slovenia	30 March 2007	24 April 2008
Solomon Islands	23 September 2008	
South Africa	30 March 2007	30 November 2007
Spain	30 March 2007	3 December 2007

Participant	*Signature*	*Ratification or accession*
Sri Lanka	30 March 2007	
Sudan	30 March 2007	24 April 2009
Suriname	30 March 2007	
Swaziland	25 September 2007	
Sweden	30 March 2007	15 December 2008
Syrian Arab Republic	30 March 2007	10 July 2009
Thailand	30 March 2007	29 July 2008
The former Yugoslav Republic Macedonia	30 March 2007	29 December 2011
Togo	23 September 2008	1 March 2011
Tonga	15 November 2007	
Trinidad and Tobago	27 September 2007	
Tunisia	30 March 2007	2 April 2008
Turkey	30 March 2007	28 September 2009
Turkmenistan		4 September 2008*
Uganda	30 March 2007	25 September 2008
Ukraine	24 September 2008	4 February 2010
United Arab Emirates	8 February 2008	19 March 2010
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	30 March 2007	8 June 2009
United Republic of Tanzania	30 March 2007	10 November 2009
United States of America	30 July 2009	
Uruguay	3 April 2007	11 February 2009
Uzbekistan	27 February 2009	
Vanuatu	17 May 2007	23 October 2008
Viet Nam	22 October 2007	
Yemen	30 March 2007	26 March 2009
Zambia	9 May 2008	1 February 2010

* Accession.

B. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Participant	*Signature*	*Ratification or accession*
Algeria	30 March 2007	
Andorra	27 April 2007	
Antigua and Barbuda	30 March 2007	
Argentina	30 March 2007	2 September 2008
Armenia	30 March 2007	
Australia		21 August 2009*
Austria	30 March 2007	26 September 2008
Azerbaijan	9 January 2008	28 January 2009
Bangladesh		12 May 2008*
Belgium	30 March 2007	2 July 2009
Benin	8 February 2008	5 July 2012
Bolivia	13 August 2007	16 November 2009
Bosnia and Herzegovina	29 July 2009	12 March 2010
Brazil	30 March 2007	1 August 2008
Bulgaria	18 December 2008	
Burkina Faso	23 May 2007	23 July 2009
Burundi	26 April 2007	
Cambodia	1 October 2007	
Cameroon	1 October 2008	
Central African Republic	9 May 2007	
Chile	30 March 2007	29 July 2008
Congo	30 March 2007	
Cook Islands		8 May 2009*
Costa Rica	30 March 2007	1 October 2008
Côte d'Ivoire	7 June 2007	
Croatia	30 March 2007	15 August 2007
Cyprus	30 March 2007	27 June 2011

Participant	*Signature*	*Ratification or accession*
Czech Republic	30 March 2007	
Djibouti		18 June 2012*
Dominican Republic	30 March 2007	18 August 2009
Ecuador	30 March 2007	3 April 2008
El Salvador	30 March 2007	14 December 2007
Estonia		30 May 2012*
Fiji	2 June 2010	
Finland	30 March 2007	
France	23 September 2008	18 February 2010
Gabon	25 September 2007	
Georgia	10 July 2009	
Germany	30 March 2007	24 February 2009
Ghana	30 March 2007	31 July 2012
Greece	27 September 2010	31 May 2012
Guatemala	30 March 2007	7 April 2009
Guinea	31 August 2007	8 February 2008
Haiti		23 July 2009*
Honduras	23 August 2007	16 August 2010
Hungary	30 March 2007	20 July 2007
Iceland	30 March 2007	
Italy	30 March 2007	15 May 2009
Jamaica	30 March 2007	
Jordan	30 March 2007	
Kazakhstan	11 December 2008	
Latvia	22 January 2010	31 August 2010
Lebanon	14 June 2007	
Liberia	30 March 2007	
Lithuania	30 March 2007	18 August 2010
Luxembourg	30 March 2007	26 September 2011

Participant	*Signature*	*Ratification or accession*
Madagascar	25 September 2007	
Mali	15 May 2007	7 April 2008
Malta	30 March 2007	
Mauritania		3 April 2012*
Mauritius	25 September 2007	
Mexico	30 March 2007	17 December 2007
Mongolia		13 May 2009*
Montenegro	27 September 2007	2 November 2009
Morocco		8 April 2009*
Mozambique		30 January 2012*
Namibia	25 April 2007	4 December 2007
Nepal	3 January 2008	7 May 2010
Nicaragua	21 October 2008	2 February 2010
Niger	2 August 2007	24 June 2008
Nigeria	30 March 2007	24 September 2010
Panama	30 March 2007	7 August 2007
Paraguay	30 March 2007	3 September 2008
Peru	30 March 2007	30 January 2008
Portugal	30 March 2007	23 September 2009
Qatar	9 July 2007	
Romania	25 September 2008	
Rwanda		15 December 2008*
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		29 October 2010*
San Marino	30 March 2007	22 February 2008
Saudi Arabia		24 June 2008*
Senegal	25 April 2007	
Serbia	17 December 2007	31 July 2009
Seychelles	30 March 2007	
Sierra Leone	30 March 2007	

Participant	*Signature*	*Ratification or accession*
Slovakia	26 September 2007	26 May 2010
Slovenia	30 March 2007	24 April 2008
Solomon Islands	24 September 2009	
South Africa	30 March 2007	30 November 2007
Spain	30 March 2007	3 December 2007
Sudan		24 April 2009*
Swaziland	25 September 2007	
Sweden	30 March 2007	15 December 2008
Syrian Arab Republic		10 July 2009*
The former Yugoslav Republic Macedonia	29 July 2009	29 December 2011
Togo	23 September 2008	1 March 2011
Tunisia	30 March 2007	2 April 2008
Turkey	28 September 2009	
Turkmenistan		10 November 2010*
Uganda	30 March 2007	25 September 2008
Ukraine	24 September 2008	4 February 2010
United Arab Emirates	12 February 2008	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	26 February 2009	7 August 2009
United Republic of Tanzania	29 September 2008	10 November 2009
Uruguay		28 October 2011*
Yemen	11 April 2007	26 March 2009
Zambia	29 September 2008	

* Accession.

United Nations A/67/282

General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 August 2012

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Item 12 of the provisional agenda*
Sport for peace and development

Sport for development and peace: mainstreaming a versatile instrument

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/67/150.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to resolution 65/4, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the resolution, including on progress made by Member States towards the implementation of the policy recommendations of the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group, on the functioning of the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace, and on the Trust Fund for Sport for Development and Peace, and to present an Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace.

2. The present report summarizes the activities undertaken by Member States and the United Nations system between the end of the last reporting period, as reflected by the Secretary-General in his report of 9 August 2010 (A/65/270) and the submission of the present report. The report provides an update on the activities of the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group and the functioning of the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace and its Trust Fund. The report also takes into account actions to implement General Assembly resolution 66/5 on building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal and activities of the Human Rights Council related to sport and human rights issues. Lastly, the report proposes a new Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace with the goal of providing direction on how resources can be maximized and the potential of sport can be harnessed for the promotion of fundamental and human rights and the achievement of inclusive and sustainable development, including the Millennium Development Goals, and peacebuilding objectives.

II. Olympic Truce of the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games

3. The General Assembly, in its resolution 66/5, urged all Member States to observe, within the framework of the Charter of the United Nations, the Olympic Truce, individually and collectively, throughout the period beginning with the start of the Games of the XXX Olympiad (27 July 2012) and ending with the close of the XIV Paralympic Games (9 September 2012), both taking placing in London. The resolution was co-sponsored and unanimously adopted by all 193 States Members of the United Nations, a first for the General Assembly.

4. As requested by the Assembly in that resolution, the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly promoted the observance of the Truce in various forms. The latter made a solemn appeal on 29 June 2012 (A/66/862) in which he appealed to all Member States "to demonstrate their commitment to the Olympic Truce for the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games, and to undertake concrete actions at the local, national, regional and world levels to promote and strengthen a culture of peace and harmony based on the spirit of the Truce".

5. The Secretary-General promoted the observance of the Olympic Truce through various means, including his message published of 19 July 2012, in which he called upon "all those engaged in hostilities to respect the Truce". During a visit to London from 26 to 28 July, he participated in the Olympic torch run and delivered remarks at a public event on the theme "Olympic Truce and utilizing sport for social change"

alongside the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom. The Secretary-General also attended the Olympic Games opening ceremony, during which a video message recorded by the Secretary-General urging support for the Truce was played on large screens in the stadium.

6. The London Organizing Committee for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the Government of the United Kingdom raised the ambition of what the Olympic Truce can achieve for development and peace. Working in partnership with host Governments, parliamentarians, National Olympic Committees, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and faith groups, the United Kingdom delivered over 50 events on every continent to support and promote the Olympic Truce. The United Kingdom brought together diverse communities affected by conflict to participate in sporting, cultural and educational activities to promote conflict prevention and peace. Those activities included a paralympic-style sports day in Sri Lanka for soldiers, ex-combatants and civilians with disabilities, and the collaboration of the United Kingdom, Caribbean National Olympic Associations and local NGOs in organizing football tournaments for local rival gangs. Another event was a football tournament that brought together young people from different communities in the Sudan (including Darfur) and South Sudan, with the goal of promoting peace and unity among the participants.

7. It should be noted that as of the date of submission of the present report, resolution 66/5 had been violated by the continued fighting in numerous ongoing armed conflicts around the world. Moreover, no evidence could be gathered on any initiative by warring parties to either proactively implement a unilateral ceasefire or try to broker a mutual ceasefire based on the Olympic Truce.

III. Human Rights Council and sport

8. Sport can have a positive impact on individuals in multiple ways. It has therefore been included in the development context and the work of the United Nations as a tool for development and peace. Given the relevance of sport and physical activity and the growing influence of sporting actors, an interrelation between the spheres of sport and human rights is becoming increasingly eminent. Throughout the reporting period, on various occasions, the Human Rights Council included questions pertaining to sport in its deliberations. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the responsible special rapporteurs and other experts have addressed related questions in the Human Rights Council on several occasions.

9. On 30 September 2011, during its 18th session, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 18/23 on promoting awareness, understanding and the application of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through sport and the Olympic ideal, thereby deciding to convene a high-level interactive panel discussion to consider how sport can be used to promote awareness and understanding of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its inherent principles. In addition, questions pertaining to sport and human rights were addressed by the Human Rights Council and its Member States on a number of occasions. On 9 January 2011, in an interactive panel discussion on the theme "Combating racism through sport", the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations Office at Geneva, with the participation of the Australian Football League, addressed the positive effects that

the inclusion of ethnically diverse and indigenous groups in sport can have on an entire society. In a special meeting of the Council, on 11 March 2011, on the occasion of the opening of an exhibition organized by the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations Office at Geneva, in collaboration with the International Paralympic Committee, questions pertaining to sport and disability were addressed by representatives from sport and society.

10. In discussions on the themes "Role of sport in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance" and "Role of education sport in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance", held from 20 to 25 October 2011 during the ninth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and in reference to Human Rights Council resolution 13/27 on a world of sports free from racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance of 15 April 2010, the potential and responsibility of sport in this field were addressed. In an expert consultation on the theme "Promoting and protecting the rights of children working and/or living on the street", held on 1 November 2011, sport was considered to be a suitable and practical way to reach out to those children.

IV. Partnerships, initiatives, programmes and policies

A. States Members of the United Nations

11. During the reporting period, Member States have continued initiatives and established national policies and strategies that further advanced sport for development and peace to the unanimous adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 65/4. On 3 May 2012, the Secretary-General circulated a note verbale to Member States requesting information on measures taken by them since the previous reporting period. Information was received from Armenia, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Cyprus, El Salvador, Germany, Ghana, Iraq, Italy, Mexico, Monaco, Myanmar, Qatar, South Africa, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. The report of the Secretary-General on sport for development and peace: strengthening the partnerships (A/65/270) presented a two-year Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace, including four main lines of action: (a) the global framework; (b) policy development; (c) resource mobilization; and (d) evidence of impact. Member States were urged to meet the challenges of the lines of action and to work along them to integrate sport for development and peace in the development agenda at every level.

1. Global framework for sport for development and peace

12. The Group of Friends of Sport for Development and Peace has continued to hold regular meetings. The Group, which is an open forum comprising permanent representatives to the United Nations in New York, was created in January 2005. It is currently chaired by the permanent representatives of Monaco and Tunisia to the United Nations. The aim of the Group is to promote dialogue and to encourage Member States to incorporate sport into their development strategies and policies to help accelerate attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and to promote peace. Members of the Group share national experiences and practices, exchange information and propose initiatives for both its members and the United Nations

system. The Group also acts as an informal consultation forum for General Assembly resolutions on sport for development and peace. To encourage the implementation of those resolutions, the Group cooperates with the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace and other United Nations entities. During the reporting period, the Group grew by two members to 45.[1]

13. The General Assembly, at the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals in September 2010, again recognized sport as a powerful tool in contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular through resolution 65/1 on the outcome of the meeting. Member States thereby built upon their highlighting of the potential of sport as expressed in the outcome document of the 2005 World Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (see resolution 60/1).

14. In terms of international treaties, the International Convention against Doping in Sport, which was adopted on 19 October 2005 and entered into force on 1 February 2007, has 160 States parties as of 1 August 2012. During the reporting period, 16 countries ratified, acceded to or accepted the Convention. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities had 117 ratifications of its 153 signatories as of 1 August 2012. During the reporting period, 33 countries signed or ratified the Convention. Article 30 of the Convention provides that States parties shall take measures to promote the participation of people with disabilities in mainstream sporting activities and disability-specific sporting and recreational activities and to ensure that children with disabilities have equal access to participation in recreation and sports.

2. Policy development

15. Numerous Member States have undertaken efforts in policy development and legislation during the reporting period. In addition to this, the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group (see section V below) remains instrumental in promoting and supporting the systematic integration and mainstreaming of sport for development and peace in national and international development plans and policies.

16. The Government of Australia is focused on improving the quality of life for persons with disabilities throughout the world with the strategy entitled "Development for all: towards a disability-inclusive Australian aid programme 2009-2014", in which sport is a support mechanism for achieving that goal. The Australian Sports Outreach Programme is addressing broad development priorities and community issues in developing countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean, with sport used as a platform to promote social inclusion and cohesion, foster healthy behaviour and provide educational and leadership opportunities.

17. Austria has supported gender equality in all sports while pursuing methods for raising awareness on the subject of sexual violence in sports. Austria is also focused on the importance of physical activity, with a nationwide initiative bringing more physical activity to young children and the first steps towards the creation of a national action plan for physical activity. Brazil has committed to fostering and adopting public policies to ensure that serving as hosts for three megasport events in

[1] The list of members is available from http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/sport/home/unplayers/memberstates/groupoffriends.

the next five years will generate more jobs, improve nationwide infrastructure and increase opportunities for Brazilian youth.

18. The Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ghana has a policy to collaborate with sports federations, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations and private sector sports academies to use sport for development and peace. In 2012, Italy adopted a law allowing the Government to monitor the use of development funds directed to municipalities and sports organizations for the start-up and expansion of sports programmes. In 2010, the National Commission of Physical Culture and Sport of Mexico signed a cooperation agreement with the National Institute of Women in order to mainstream and institutionalize a gender perspective in policies related to physical activity and sport and to develop strategies with the goal of promoting gender equality.

19. Education committees for health and citizenship were created in high schools and colleges in Monaco with the goal of defining and implementing actions in the field of health education and the prevention of high-risk behaviour, such as doping, smoking and unhealthy eating habits. A Disability Sports Day is held annually, bringing together athletes and teams for competitions and activities in different disciplines. Sport in Qatar supports the country's education efforts, with the most prominent being coordination with the Supreme Council for Education in curriculum development, and supporting the sports infrastructure in schools and the school Olympic programme for all students.

20. To achieve universal primary education, the Ministry of Sports of Myanmar has worked closely with the Ministry of Education to include sports activities and physical education as a compulsory subject in the academic curriculum. The sporting sector in South Africa adopted the National Sport and Recreation Plan in 2011, which is a detailed plan for the coordination of sport and physical education, the maintenance and utilization of sports facilities and the use of sport as a tool for development and peace, particularly emphasizing the inclusion and empowerment of youth, women, the elderly, rural communities and persons with disabilities.

3. Resource mobilization

21. Armenia has provided State support for four NGOs focused on sport for persons with disabilities. In cooperation with the nation's Football Federation, Armenia has implemented the child-juvenile sports programme. Australia has continued its national Active After-school Communities programme, which targets the inactivity of children and which was delivered to 190,000 children in 2012. Australia also has a number of programmes to address the involvement of women and girls in sports-related activities, including direct funding to targeted sports, the Sports Leadership Grants and Scholarships for Women. The Australian Sports Commission partnered with the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs to coordinate a sports demonstration project, where sports-focused activities were delivered to indigenous youth in five sites in the Northern Territory in 2011 and 2012.

22. The Ministry of Sports of Austria supports projects using sport as a means of development, ranging from fighting poverty and developing life skills to providing equality for females and persons with disabilities. In 2011, seven projects were funded in Bangladesh, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Mozambique, South Africa and Palestine. The Government also funded 14 projects focused on gender equality

throughout Austria. In 2010, the public universities and the Government of Ghana launched the Beckwith International Leadership Development programme aimed at changing the lives of children and youth of all abilities through sport.

23. Brazil has developed numerous sports cooperation projects in partnership with several developing countries. Given its role as host of a series of megasport events, Brazil has begun work for the FIFA Confederations Cup in 2013, the FIFA Football World Cup in 2014 and the Rio Olympic and Paralympic Summer Games in 2016. This has included taking steps to promote sustainable development and social inclusion, enhancing relations with regional and worldwide partners and uniting the international community. The Cyprus Sport Organization financially supports all federations of sport and persons with disabilities and the respective Cyprus Paralympics Committee and Special Olympics Committee. The Cyprus Sport Organization's Sport for All programme has enabled more than 18,000 people of all ages, male and female, to participate in more than 12 sports. Another initiative in Cyprus is the Student Sport Badge and School Sport Flag schemes, which aim to engage students in physical activity.

24. The National Institute of Sport of El Salvador promotes public safety and a culture of peace through training courses for coaches, physical education for peace courses and capacity-building in institutions such as public schools and sports clubs, and provides opportunities for the public, including persons with disabilities, to engage in physical activity and sport. Germany supported the second football tournament and festival "Four countries 4 peace", which was held in March 2011 and was organized by the German Football Federation and the Rwandan NGO, Espérance. The event featured mixed male and female teams from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda with the aim of promoting peaceful coexistence and mutual understanding. The Ministry of Youth and Sport of Iraq has a project that supports sport centres throughout the country, including sports activities for persons with disabilities. The Ministry also hosted conferences on the dangers of drug abuse and on sports injuries and sports medicine.

25. Ghana hosted the third African Cup of Nations for Amputee Football tournament, which uses sport to change the lives of disabled children and youth. The Ministry of Youth and Sports in Ghana organized the National Unity Games in 2011 to bring together sportsmen and sportswomen across the ethnic divide, while Ghana also hosted the Economic Community of West African States Youth Games in 2012 to foster the spirit of friendship, integration and peace among member States. Over the past three years, the Italian Cooperation offices in Beirut and Jerusalem established many sports-based initiatives with a view to strengthening child and youth development and education, promoting gender equity and empowering girls and women, and fostering the inclusion and well-being of persons with disabilities. In 2012, Italian Cooperation also helped implement United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) projects in Lebanon, including the rehabilitation of playgrounds in the Dbayeh and Shatila camps in Beirut and the construction of a gymnasium in Rashidieh.

26. The Principality of Monaco supports sports projects in Africa to promote social integration, education and professional insertion of disadvantaged young people. In Tunisia, the project "Sport and disability: for better integration of people with disabilities" is coordinated by Handicap International in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Tunisian Federation of Sports for People with

Disabilities. In Senegal, the Government of Monaco supports the Senegalese Rugby Federation for the development of clubs in disadvantaged neighbourhoods with the dual purposes of spreading the practice of the sport and helping young people in their professional development. The Qatar Olympic Committee and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime continued cooperation of the joint initiative Global Sport for Youth for the prevention of drugs and crime in Qatar, which aims to use sport as a mechanism to enhance adolescents' physical and psychological health.

27. The programmes carried out by the National Commission of Physical Culture and Sports of Mexico train and develop participants and communities through sport for development and peace. Programmes include "Tennis goes to school", which benefits more than 300,000 children in 800 schools by promoting human development and fostering a culture of peace; "National encounter of indigenous sport", an annual event promoting sport and physical activity in indigenous communities; the "National popular games" providing opportunities for competition for young people to practise any sport. Myanmar has signed a memorandum of understanding on sports exchange programmes with the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam, along with Bangladesh, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

28. During the 2010 Fédération internationale de football association (FIFA) World Cup, South Africa contributed to the second International Sport and Development Conference, which was held in Cape Town. In 2010 and 2011, thousands of children with disabilities took part in a school-based sports programme, while the South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport distributed 3,000 anti-doping education handbooks to schoolchildren. With regard to gender equality, many women and girls participated in the Indigenous Games in 2010 and in the 2010 World Cup legacy projects organized by Sport and Recreation South Africa. A Sports Heroes Walk against HIV/AIDS took place in South Africa in 2010 with over 30,000 participants.

29. In the United Kingdom, UK Sport has supported sport for development overseas for 22 years in over 30 countries, including their ongoing work on the programme entitled "Moving the Goalposts" in Kenya, which provides out-of-school girls with access to life skill development and educational and economic opportunities through football. Having prioritized sport, child and youth development, UK Sport worked with international partners to develop child protection and safeguarding standards and policies. UK Sport has continued to work in partnership with developing countries to strengthen sports systems and organizational capacity by assisting with strategic planning and the training of coaches, officials, young leaders and administrators, also by leading the International Community Coach Education System initiative. As part of the official legacy of the 2012 London Olympic Games, UK Sport collaborated with the United Nations Children's Fund and the British Council to design and implement the International Inspiration programme, which has already enriched the lives of over 12 million young people in 20 countries, creating sustainable social, economic and sporting legacies throughout the world.

30. The United States Department of State has a division dedicated to sports diplomacy, which includes sports envoy programmes that send American professional athletes to other nations to engage young people in conversations about

their sport, healthy life choices and education. The Empowering Women and Girls through Sports initiative of the United States was launched by the Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs in February 2012 with a focus on helping ensure that women around the world have access to sports and all related benefits.

4. Evidence of impact

31. The Australian Sports Commission is working with Victoria University to assess the "playing for life" philosophy and its effectiveness in engaging children and youth in sport and structured physical activity and to inform the practice of delivering sports programmes. In addition, several sports-based programmes and projects in Australia are currently under review, including the Fair go, sport! project, which promotes a safe and inclusive sports environment for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, the Sports Demonstration Project for indigenous youth and the Australian Sports Outreach Programme in the Pacific.

32. The Cyprus Sport Organization's Women and Sport Committee completed a study in 2011 entitled "Woman and Sport in Cyprus", which explored female Cypriots' involvement in sport and physical activity as participants and leaders. The Cyprus Sport Organization also initiated a study on leisure sport participation in Cyprus to identify the participation of Cypriots in mass sports and grass-roots sports. In September 2011, Germany, in cooperation with Israel and with the support of the International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education, organized an international conference on the theme "Sports as a mediator between cultures". The forum contributed to a better understanding of how sport can help facilitate mutual understanding within and between cultures and promote conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

B. United Nations system

1. United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace

33. 2011 marked the tenth year of the existence of the mandate of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace and the Office on Sport for Development and Peace. During the reporting period, the Special Adviser and the Office continued their work as the gateway to the United Nations system for the promotion and mobilization of sport as a tool in advancing the goals, missions and values of the Organization.[2]

34. The activities and operations of the Office on Sport for Development and Peace are funded through voluntary financial contributions to the Trust Fund for Sport for Development and Peace, which was established in November 2007 by the Secretary-General. Contributions can be received from both Governments and private institutions, such as foundations, organizations, corporations and individuals. During the reporting period, contributions were received from several Member States: Germany, as the main donor, contributed annually; Switzerland contributed in 2011; and the Olympic Council of Asia contributed in 2012. Norway and the United Kingdom made annual contributions, which were earmarked in part

[2] The annual report of the Office on Sport for Development and Peace for 2011 is available from http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/sport/home/unplayers/unoffice.

for the operations of the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group secretariat, which is hosted by the Office.

35. During the reporting period, the Office, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information as co-chair, continued to convene and coordinate the United Nations Communications Group's Working Group on Sport for Development and Peace. The Working Group serves as an inter-agency platform to strengthen United Nations inter-agency communication, information-sharing, coherence and coordination concerning activities in the field of sport for development and peace.

36. The Office continued to manage and further develop the "Sport for Development and Peace — the United Nations System in Action" website (http://www.un.org/sport). The site serves as the online hub for the involvement of the United Nations system in sport for development and peace and is complemented by presences on social media sites (Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and YouTube).

37. In 2010, the Office on Sport for Development and Peace received the Union of European Football Associations Monaco Charity Award, which has been used to support five sport for development and peace projects in five regions over a four-year period within five thematic areas: health; peace and reconciliation; gender equality; persons with disabilities; and education. The projects — located in Burundi, the Gaza Strip, Haiti, Tajikistan and Ukraine — are ongoing, and regular reporting is completed by the various partners, which include the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Volunteers, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and UNRWA.

38. In 2010, an educational comic book about the Millennium Development Goals, *Score the goals: teaming up to achieve the Millennium Development Goals*, was created. The publication is available in the English, French, Spanish, Chinese, German, Italian and Korean languages. Mobile device applications were made available for free. On 26 October 2011, the project was awarded the Special Jury Prize of the Peace and Sport Awards 2011.

39. In September 2010, the Office organized a high-level round table on sport for development and peace on the theme "Value of sport as a development tool", held in the framework of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals. Participants discussed the importance of sport and how it can be used to further promote and implement development initiatives throughout the world.

40. On 10 and 11 May 2011, the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace and the International Olympic Committee jointly organized the second International Forum on Sport, Peace and Development at the United Nations Office at Geneva. The two-day forum featured sessions on how to position sport as a catalyst for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, how major sports events can deliver on legacy and how to foster a culture of peace through sport. It was attended by more than 350 experts and high-ranking figures from over 100 countries, including representatives from national Governments, the United Nations system, aid organizations and universities. The forum concluded with the adoption of key recommendations aimed at leveraging sport as a tool for positive change.[3] As

[3] The Forum report is available at http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/sport/home/resourcecenter/publications.

a follow-up to the forum, in February 2012, the Secretary-General and the President of the International Olympic Committee undertook a joint mission to Zambia to visit Olympic and United Nations sport for development and peace projects. The next session of the forum is planned to take place at United Nations Headquarters on 5 and 6 June 2013.

41. On 18 November 2011 in Tokyo, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, Wilfried Lemke, signed, on behalf of the United Nations, a two-year partnership with the International Volleyball Federation, focusing mainly on promotion of the Millennium Development Goals. On 9 July 2012, Mr. Lemke signed, once again on behalf of the United Nations, a partnership agreement with the Gwangju Universiade 2015 Organizing Committee. The partnership presents two main objectives, namely, to foster inter-Korean exchanges through sport and to promote the Millennium Development Goals through the student games' legacy and the outreach programme "Eco-friendliness, Peace, Information Technology and Culture".

42. In January 2012, the Office, in collaboration with the NGO Right To Play, launched the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace Youth Leadership Camp initiative, with the objective of supporting deserving young community workers with basic education levels and limited resources by giving them access to learning and training on how sport can be better used to positively effect change in their communities. Issues covered are largely in line with the Millennium Development Goals, with each day being dedicated to a different thematic focus. Gender equality and the inclusion of persons with disabilities are more specifically addressed. The inaugural camp was held in January 2012 in Doha. Partners have so far included international sports organizations, football clubs and leagues, development agencies, NGOs, universities and private companies. It is the intention that up to four similar camps will take place every year with 30 participants per camp (equal male and female representation) between the ages of 18 and 25.[4]

2. United Nations offices, funds, programmes, specialized agencies and other entities

43. In 2011, UNDP received two projects submitted by Belarus, Russia and Ukraine to expand the programme of providing sport and physical activities for youth in the area affected by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in 1986. Each project was funded by personal contributions from Maria Sharapova in the amount of $250,000. UNDP Goodwill Ambassadors visited Mali and Sierra Leone to promote women's and youth empowerment projects. UNDP also supported the Football Association of Maldives for a project to increase women's participation in sports, and continued its partnerships with the Union of European Football Associations and the Fédération internationale de football association for the Match Against Poverty and with the International Olympic Committee for the implementation of the Gatumba sports centre in Burundi.

44. In the framework of the International Convention against Doping in Sport, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

[4] Further information is available from http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/sport/home/unplayers/unoffice/YLC.

ensured that since 2008 a total of 73 projects in least developed or low income countries, worth over $1.2 million, have received financial support. UNESCO carried out a worldwide survey on physical education in schools and initiated a study to assess the socioeconomic benefits of public investment in sports. UNESCO produced the documentary entitled *The War on Doping* and organized the 2012 Young Leaders Forum in Helsinki in June. Outreach activities with sport federations include regular encounters with young athletes, the production of a curriculum guide for use in schools and sports clubs and a comic for the London 2012 Olympic Games.

45. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) placed more emphasis on incorporating sport and play into country programmes, helping disadvantaged children to develop a healthy lifestyle and increase cohesion with their communities. UNICEF developed a Global Strategic Framework on Sport for Development to reach the most marginalized children. The Fund also signed and renewed various global partnerships, including: the formal alliance with Special Olympics; the commitment of Futbol Club Barcelona to help reach children in 16,000 schools; the Brazilian Clube de Regatas do Flamengo to promote and protect the rights of children and adolescents in sport; the Asian Cricket Council to support girls' education in South Asia; and with Grassroot Soccer to design a research project "Sport two life" in Namibia. UNICEF continued to support the international legacy programme of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, International Inspiration, to reach 12 million children in 18 countries. The Fund also developed the Sister2Sister programme to provide HIV risk reduction education to adolescent girls.

46. The World Health Organization (WHO) co-organized the Healthy Islands Through Sport Forum in Brisbane, Australia, in March 2012, together with Australian local authorities, to establish a regional platform between the Pacific Health and Sport Ministries to help prevent non-communicable diseases. WHO continued to work with the International Olympic Committee to develop and implement physical activity and sports awareness programmes and to engage the sporting goods sector to promote physical activity and the prevention of non-communicable diseases. The Pan-American Conference on Obesity was held in 2011 and 2012 to identify strategies and effective methods to promote physical activity as a component of the prevention of childhood obesity.

47. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) extended its Professional Football against Hunger campaign. In Europe, the third edition of the Match Day Against Hunger brought together 300 professional football clubs in 16 countries across Europe. The Hunger Run on World Food Day was organized annually to raise awareness about hunger and malnutrition and to collect funds for community projects. In May 2012, FAO Goodwill Ambassador Raul Gonzalez travelled to Chad in support of joint efforts of the international community to help the most affected people in the Sahel region.

48. During the 2010 World Basketball Championship in Turkey, the Economic Commission for Europe, in collaboration with the World Basketball Federation, organized a campaign on road safety with the objective of encouraging respect for the rules on the road as well as on the basketball court. The same campaign was also organized during the EuroBasket Championship in Lithuania in 2011. Jointly run with WHO Europe since 2009, the Transport-Health-Environment Pan-European

Programme organized international workshops with a key element of promoting cycling as a healthy and safe alternative in urban mobility.

49. United Nations Volunteers partnered with UNDP, the German Agency for International Cooperation and local NGOs and launched the Young Football Volunteers project in Ukraine this May through the Monaco Charity Award funds granted by the Union of European Football Associations to the Office on Sport for Development and Peace. The project took the momentum of Euro 2012 to promote HIV prevention and awareness, prevention of violence, protection of the environment, gender equality and community involvement in rural areas in Ukraine.

50. The Department of Public Information has been co-chairing, with the Office on Sport for Development and Peace the United Nations Communications Group's Working Group on Sport for Development and Peace, and cross-promoting United Nations messages at major world sports events. The global network of United Nations information centres organized and supported a number of activities highlighting sport for development and peace, including: football games for national social inclusion programmes in Australia; Global Peace Games in Azerbaijan; the "Integration Race" promoting the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in France; a "We Play for Peace" basketball game; and a marathon in Lebanon, among others.

51. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the Government of the Russian Federation co-organized a charity soccer match in 2011 to support women and children living with HIV in Russia. UNAIDS enlisted the support of 37 heads of National Olympic Committees and 24 national team captains who signed pledges to support the vision of UNAIDS for zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths, and the Red Card campaign. UNAIDS coordinated cricket players to participate in a series of activities focused on HIV prevention and standing against HIV-related stigma and discrimination during cricket events. On the occasion of the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations, UNAIDS also promoted the multimedia campaign of the First Lady of Gabon "CAN SANS SIDA".

52. UNRWA integrated sports education in its 699 schools for half a million pupils in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic. The annual Gaza Summer Games was successful in 2011 and attracted 250,000 children. The Agency also organized marathons in various locations (e.g., Gaza City, Saida, Tyre, Baalbek) to bring Palestinians and their local community and international supporters together. In addition to the Agency's project of constructing football pitches in Jenin, UNRWA signed an agreement with The Real Madrid Foundation in 2011 for eight social sports schools in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, benefiting more than 10,000 Palestine refugee children.

53. The Peacebuilding Support Office has undertaken a number of activities related to sport as a means of promoting sustainable peace. The Peacebuilding Fund financed the refurbishment and establishment of sports centres for amputee victims of the Sierra Leone civil war, along with funding a project to promote non-violence and political tolerance during the election in Sierra Leone in 2012. As part of the project, football tournaments were organized in communities considered at risk of politically motivated violence.

54. A number of sports events were organized by United Nations peacekeeping operations to promote reconciliation, dialogue, development and peace. For instance, the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur organized a horse race in Nyala and supported the local marathon and football and volleyball matches; the United Nations Mission in South Sudan staged a women's volleyball match between United Nations military and civilian police and the local military and police on International Women's Day, and a similar men's match on the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers; the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) organized football events, including a match at the central prison in Kinshasa between a team of detainees and a team made up of MONUSCO and prison staff; the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire participated in June 2012 in a sports competition in Daoukro and organized three days of sports activities in Dabou; the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste took part in the Tour de Timor bicycle race; and the Civil Affairs Section of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon organized a football match to raise awareness of the continuing problem of landmines.

55. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) continued to work on engaging sports bodies and event organizers through its Sport and the Environment Programme. In 2011, UNEP and the International Olympic Committee organized the ninth World Conference on Sport and the Environment in Doha. During the 2012 Winter Youth Olympic Games in Innsbruck, Austria, UNEP organized multifaceted activities to increase environmental awareness. For the future mega-events, UNEP engaged the Government of the Russian Federation and the local organizing committee on the greening of the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympic Games, and signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministries of Sports and the Environment of Brazil on the greening of the 2014 Fédération internationale de football association World Cup. UNEP also worked with the International Olympic Committee to revise its Agenda 21 for Sport and the Environment and the International Motorcycling Federation to promote environmental awareness during its events.

56. As a financial cooperative with social responsibility as part of its fabric, the United Nations Federal Credit Union has extended its service mission to use sport as a tool for development and peace. As a testament to positive change, a Credit Union grant to Play Soccer Nonprofit International, active in six African countries, supported community-based grass-roots programmes that teach health and social skills with the Global Peace Games. On International Women's Day in 2012, the Credit Union and UN-Women supported pledges from 34 African countries to end violence against women in their climbing up Mount Kilimanjaro, which was organized as part of the Africa UNiTE to End Violence against Women Campaign.

57. Since 2011, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has engaged in strategic cooperation and activities to promote the intellectual property in sport as a tool for economic, social and cultural development. Recent activities include awareness-raising and training programmes to encourage the strategic use of intellectual property in sports sectors. WIPO has been closely cooperating with the International Olympic Committee and international sports organizations to better address the range of intellectual property issues in sport.

3. Activities of the United Nations system around the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games

58. The 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games provided the opportunity to strengthen and implement partnerships and carry out activities to promote the objectives of the United Nations. Many United Nations organizations have active partnerships and agreements with the International Olympic Committee, which was granted observer status by the General Assembly in 2009, and the International Paralympic Committee, which enjoys special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council since 2008. The Secretary-General and his Special Adviser participated in several public events in connection with the 2012 London Games to highlight and promote the role of sport in development and peace efforts and took part in the torch run and the Olympic opening ceremony. Further activities included the participation of FAO Goodwill Ambassadors in a series of activities and the joint presentation by UNESCO of an anti-doping documentary and distribution of an anti-doping comic strip. Sponsorship for participants in the Olympic torch relay included support from UNICEF UK for 20 young leaders from "International Inspiration" countries and support from UN-HABITAT for a photographer from the slums of Nairobi. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees coordinated a project to send sports clothing to refugee camps, while the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime launched a joint project to raise awareness of human trafficking. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Olympic Committee undertook a study on minimizing and eventually ending irregular and illegal betting on sports. UNAIDS organized an AIDS advocacy event which touched on the role of sport for AIDS advocacy, and WFP organized a photography exhibition showing children from the developing world playing sports. Finally, WHO collaborated with several partners on risk assessments of public health, preparedness and crisis management during the London Games.

V. Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group

59. The Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group, established in 2004, is an intergovernmental policy initiative with the aim to formulate sport for development and peace policy and programme recommendations and promote the integration of such recommendations into national and international development strategies and policies of Governments. Moreover, it is the aim of the International Working Group to report on activities, share best practices of policies and related implementation and build capacity of Governments. Through dialogue, enhanced cooperation and coordination among stakeholders, it is furthermore the aim of the International Working Group to support Governments and to reach out to United Nations agencies, civil society, sports federations, international organizations and academia to harness the potential of sport to contribute to the achievement of development objectives, specifically the Millennium Development Goals, and peace.

60. The Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group comprises four main bodies: the Plenary; the Executive Board; five Thematic Working Groups; and the secretariat. The latter is hosted by the Office on Sport for Development and

Peace. The Plenary of the International Working Group includes both Members (representatives from Member States who are specialized in sport for development and peace) and observers (e.g., representatives from United Nations agencies, civil society, academia and sports organizations). The International Working Group focuses on five thematic working groups: Sport and Child and Youth Development; Sport and Gender; Sport and Peace; Sport and Persons with Disabilities; and Sport and Health.

61. The second plenary session of the International Working Group was conducted by the secretariat on 12 May 2011 at the United Nations Office at Geneva.[5] Two Thematic Working Groups were activated during that session: those on Sport and Gender (chaired by Norway and co-chaired by the United Republic of Tanzania) and Sport and Peace (jointly co-chaired by the Russian Federation and South Africa). The Thematic Working Groups on Sport and Persons with Disabilities and Sport and Health have, so far, not been activated. Interested Member States are invited to step forward and chair those two groups. During the session, participants conducted detailed policy exchanges and shared experiences on how sport can contribute to development work and peacebuilding. Chairs and co-chairs of Thematic Groups as well as regional representatives reported on their activities. The third plenary session of the International Working Group is set to take place in October 2012 at the United Nations Office at Geneva.

62. The basis of the work of the International Working Group is an activity-based workplan, and policy briefs are published for each thematic area to assist in explaining the issues. In order to enhance the shared knowledge in the field of sport for development and peace, the Secretariat, at the request of the International Working Group, in 2012 launched an online survey to all States Members of the United Nations and focal points within the field of sport for development and peace. The gathered data will be published and disseminated for the benefit of all Member States and stakeholders. An electronic Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group newsletter sharing new policies, programmes and best practices among all Member States and observers was launched in 2011.[6]

VI. United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace

63. In its resolution 61/10, the General Assembly encouraged Member States, the United Nations system and various other actors to implement the first ever United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace, which was presented in the report of the Secretary-General (A/61/373). When the Action Plan expired after three years, the General Assembly, in resolution 63/135, requested the Secretary-General to present a new Action Plan in his report to the Assembly at its sixty-fifth session. The revised Action Plan contained in that report (A/65/270) was welcomed by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/4, with its main action points endorsed to be implemented by relevant stakeholders. In the same resolution, the General

[5] The meeting report is available at http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/sport/home/unplayers/memberstates/sdpiwg_meetings.

[6] The newsletters are available from http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/sport/home/unplayers/memberstates/pid/18406.

Assembly requested the Secretary-General to present a new Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace.

64. In response to that request, the following Action Plan takes into account the past achievements, lessons learned, knowledge and action gaps recognized and challenges identified. Though the Action Plan retains the set of four main lines of action contained in the previous Action Plans (global framework for sport for development and peace; policy development; resource mobilization; and evidence of impact), it updates and streamlines the relevant challenges, objectives and action points. In line with the biannual resolution and reporting cycle on sport for development and peace, the Action Plan covers two years but also looks beyond. The overall aim is to encourage all stakeholders, including United Nations Member States; intergovernmental organizations; the United Nations system; civil society organizations such as NGOs and world sports organizations including the International Olympic Committee, international federations and other governing bodies; the private sector and the media, to move from awareness to greater implementation and action and to mainstream sport as a tool for development and peace in national and international policies. All stakeholders are urged to work along the Main Lines of Action to integrate sport for development and peace in the development and peacebuilding agenda at every level.

65. As evidenced in the preceding sections of the present report, many activities have been undertaken in the field of sport for development and peace, and much progress has been made by Governments and the United Nations system. It should also be mentioned that other stakeholders, such as (regional) intergovernmental organizations, including the Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport, the African Union, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Council of Europe; regional supranational organizations, such as the European Union, the World Bank and regional development banks; civil society organizations, world sports organizations, NGOs, academia and the private sector have undertaken actions that point to collective progress in the field of sport for development and peace. Universal support for General Assembly resolutions demonstrates the continued interest in and commitment to sport for development and peace by Member States. However, partly in contradiction to this, certain challenges and gaps persist to varying degrees of resolve or aggravation. More initiatives are required in line with the action points contained in the previous Action Plans, and Member States, United Nations agencies and other stakeholders are encouraged to reconsider the Action Plan with a view to reviewing policies and practice. In addition, in order to identify and evaluate progress and remaining challenges more accurately, especially with regard to the Action Plan, more Member States and United Nations system organizations are urged to report more comprehensively on their activities by providing information relating to all four main lines of action and the corresponding action points. In order to develop baseline data, in addition to reporting on the progress related to the General Assembly resolutions, Member States are strongly encouraged to participate in the online survey on sport for development and peace developed within the International Working Group (see sect. V above).

66. It is important that stakeholders acknowledge that sport for development and peace is different from the development of sport, especially elite sport, and that separate funding for sport for development and peace is necessary. With a few exceptions, there is no hard evidence for a broad increase in investment by relevant government agencies in sport for development and peace programmes or support to

United Nations organizations carrying out sport for development and peace programmes and related activities, in particular the Office on Sport for Development and Peace. The latter continues to face serious challenges in ensuring sustainable operations owing to a limited donor base and sporadic and decreasing contributions to the Trust Fund, which results in recurring annual budgetary challenges and, as a result, a lack of predictability and difficulties in retaining staff with the required qualifications. In the field of policy development, knowledge has been boosted and best practices shared, in particular within the International Working Group. Within the United Nations system, many sport for development and peace programmes have been implemented by various United Nations agencies. However, there is a tendency by some to view and use sport for development and peace primarily in terms of communications and partnerships. While this represents a valid strategy, more sport for development and peace programmes and pilot projects could be conceived in order to achieve organizational objectives and impact on the ground. Furthermore, under the guidance of the Office on Sport for Development and Peace, United Nations agencies are encouraged to further share experiences in the field of sport for development and peace with a view to strengthening the cross-organizational knowledge base and intervention efficacy of the United Nations system.

67. Moreover, in the past few years, more transversal and overarching issues have gained prominence in the field of sport for development and peace and sport in general. For example, good governance and integrity in sport and sports organizations have become increasingly relevant for the field of sport for development and peace. Issues such as integrity, corruption and illegal and irregular betting in sport have repercussions for the sport for development and peace field as well, as they compromise the credibility and reputation of affected sports organizations, their partners, and, ultimately, sport itself. Protection, including the protection of children and protection against gender-based violence, the safeguarding of athletes in sport and the securing of human rights, are other important overarching issues that need to be further addressed. As section IV of the present report has evidenced, various stakeholders, including the United Nations, have undertaken efforts to highlight and tackle those issues. These efforts should be continued under the auspices of the Office on Sport for Development and Peace and other relevant United Nations system organizations, in collaboration with Member States, intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and world sports organizations.

A. Main lines of action

1. Global framework for sport for development and peace

68. *Challenge*: (a) need for comprehensive stakeholder coordination and contribution surrounding the global framework for sport for development and peace; (b) need for consistent information-sharing in the field of sport for development and peace.

Objective: (a) improve cooperation and coordination to create a common vision of the role of sport for development and peace, thereby reaching an agreed set of objectives and avoiding duplication and overlap on the global, national and local levels; (b) encourage and support communication and information-sharing among sport for development and peace stakeholders.

Action points:

- **Member States**: promote coordinated actions relating to sport for development and peace at all levels, including nationally, bilaterally, multilaterally and through their membership in intergovernmental organizations. Member States should, where possible, raise awareness of the action points with all relevant stakeholders, including collaborating governmental and development agencies, encouraging them to cooperate and work together in order to achieve the goals of the Action Plan. More Member States are invited to join the Group of Friends of Sport for Development and Peace. The Group is encouraged to consider inviting relevant United Nations system organizations as observers as well as special guests. Also, Member States are urged to join and support the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group.

- **United Nations system**: improve internal system-wide coherence and collaboration within the United Nations system and explore synergies and possible joint ventures when partnering with world sports organizations. Where possible, the United Nations system should raise awareness of the action points with other stakeholders, encouraging them to collaborate in order to reach the goals of the Action Plan. More United Nations entities should join and participate in the United Nations Communications Group's Working Group on Sport for Development and Peace in order to share information and enhance coordination. Under the leadership of the Special Adviser, the Office on Sport for Development and Peace will continue to facilitate and foster partnerships between the world of sport, civil society and the developing community while also promoting a common framework in the United Nations system, with Member States and with other partners. The Office is asked to sustain and enhance joint communications, advocacy and the sharing of information, knowledge and best practices in the implementation of sport for development and peace programmes.

- **Civil society**:

  - Sports organizations and NGOs: further strengthen cooperation with all stakeholders in order to address identified needs and contribute to agreed goals and objectives.

  - Academia: enhance collaboration with all stakeholders in order to design practical research studies in the sport for development and peace field that can assist in the efficient and effective use of sport to help achieve specific development and peacebuilding goals.

  - Private sector: step up corporate social responsibility and engagement through sport for development and peace, especially with United Nations system programmes, while assuring that support for NGOs is oriented towards the actual needs of the benefiting communities.

2. Policy development

69. *Challenge*: sport for development and peace strategies need to be incorporated into international, multilateral, national and local development plans and policies with enhanced cooperation and coordination among stakeholders.

Objective: promote and support the systematic integration and mainstreaming of sport for development and peace into the development sector and in international and national development plans and policies. Promote the principle of "Sport for All" and develop inclusive sport and physical education policies. Develop guidelines that orient programmes along evidence-based intentionality and objectives established further to identified needs, ensuring local ownership and capacity-building, as well as participation of beneficiaries in planning and implementation.

Action points:

- **Member States**: consider the Action Plan with the intention of reviewing national policies and practices as well as implementing and mainstreaming appropriate policies to support sport for development and peace. Join, support and actively participate in the framework of the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group, where Governments are taking part in the development of sport for development and peace policies and recommendations. Member States are urged to activate the two remaining policy areas in the International Working Group (see sect. V above). Member States should join and actively participate in other United Nations system policy initiatives, such as meetings of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport and Intergovernmental Committees for Physical Education and Sport, among others.

- **United Nations system**: include and expand on the role of sport for development and peace in United Nations country programmes and common country assessments, United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and other strategic, planning and policy documents in order to establish a common and mainstreamed sport for development and peace framework and knowledge base. The Office on Sport for Development and Peace should continue to facilitate the identification of sport for development and peace focal points throughout the United Nations system and through the International Working Group. Where possible, align and integrate policy initiatives between United Nations system organizations.

- **Civil society**:

  - Sports organizations, including world sports organizations: include or strengthen sport for development and peace in sports development strategies in order to complement the high performance angle with an inclusive "Sport for All" perspective. Introduce, further strengthen or require social development legacies as part of bids and sporting events, in line with national and international needs and principles.

  - NGOs: consider taking up sport for development and peace as an innovative, cost-efficient and effective tool in their development approaches, policies and programmes.

  - Academia: through practice-oriented research, build a strong evidence base for the effective and efficient use of sport for development and peace that can feed into the development of viable policy recommendations.

- Private sector: engage in public-private-partnership policy developments to ensure broad-based support for sport for development and peace initiatives.

3. Resource mobilization and programming

70. *Challenge*: need for committed and sustainable investment, resource mobilization and creative partnerships for achieving development and peacebuilding objectives through sport, along with the scaling up of sport for development and peace initiatives and programmes.

Objective: enhance and promote innovative funding mechanisms and multi-stakeholder arrangements in all sectors and on all levels. Increase investment and resource allocation for sport for development and peace.

Action points:

- **Member States**: in general, increase investment impact, resource mobilization and financial support by relevant government agencies for sport for development and peace programmes at national, international and multilateral levels, including for the United Nations system by, e.g., the scaling up, re-allocation or optimization of resources. In this context, particular action is required to secure the coordination efforts of the United Nations system through funding for the mandate of the Special Adviser and the activities and initiatives of the Office on Sport for Development and Peace. Member States are invited to consider funding mechanisms such as recommended voluntary financial contributions (e.g., annual contributions starting at $10,000) to the Trust Fund, in particular from Member States having expressed interest in and commitment to the area of sport for development and peace, such as the Group of Friends or the International Working Group members and countries hosting megasport events; the provision of in-kind contributions in the form of loans of personnel, among others; and/or inclusion of the Office on Sport for Development and Peace budget, in full or in part, in the regular programme budget of the United Nations.

- **United Nations system**: identify opportunities to bring sport for development and peace into currently funded programmes and initiatives while also seeking funding for new programmes and initiatives with a sport for development and peace component, specifically those which partner with sports organizations and NGOs. The Office on Sport for Development and Peace should further explore and facilitate creative partnerships among Member States, the United Nations system and national and international stakeholders that can lead to innovative funding mechanisms. In this context, the Office, in collaboration with key stakeholders, is encouraged to explore the possibility of establishing, within the present structure of the Trust Fund and in addition to the present funding mechanisms, a funding support facility, whereby, for example, sports organizations and the private sector can financially support Office on Sport for Development and Peace and the United Nations system for the funding of sport for development and peace initiatives while at the same time gain further knowledge of United Nations developments in that area.

- **Civil society:**

  - o **Sports organizations and NGOs: develop and enter into creative partnerships with Member States, the United Nations system and the private sector that can lead to new funding and support mechanisms. Further commit to honouring their social engagement, and engage organizers of sports events, especially megasport events such as Olympic and Paralympic Games and football World Cups, among others, as well as the world sports organizations behind those events to make resources available and establish partnerships for sport for development and peace programmes, including funding joint programme activities with United Nations organizations and the activities of the Office on Sport for Development and Peace as well as joining a future Sport for Development and Peace Finance Initiative to be established by the Office. Sensitize sports leagues and clubs and athletes on development issues and encourage social engagement, for example, in the role of United Nations Goodwill Ambassadors.**

  - o **Private sector: companies and individuals should review engagement in the area of sport in general and sport for development and peace, especially sports-related industries and companies that allocate major marketing and public relations budgets in the field of sport, with a view to redistributing parts of such budgets for sport for development and peace activities to fund corporate social responsibility activities and sport for development and peace programmes of the United Nations system, including the activities of the Office on Sport for Development and Peace and joining a future Sport for Development and Peace Finance Initiative to be established by the Office. Review the Action Plan with the intention of identifying areas where investment and resource mobilization is required.**

4. Evidence of impact

71. *Challenge*: **in order to mainstream in policies and plans and implement effective sport for development and peace programmes and initiatives, there is a need for systematic research and comprehensive measurement of progress, monitoring and evaluation. While many actors evaluate programmes under their established general evaluation methods, there is still a need for more refined and specific approaches and the consolidation of evidence of the benefit and efficacy of sport for development and peace programmes in development and peacebuilding efforts.**

Objective: **encourage and support evidence-based research along with the development and promotion of both universal and specific evaluation and monitoring tools, indicators and benchmarks based on commonly agreed upon standards.**

Action points:

- **Member States: increase investment and resource mobilization by relevant government agencies in systematic research and comprehensive monitoring and evaluation.**

- **United Nations system**: include evidence-based research in United Nations country programmes with a sport for development and peace component and collaborations with sports organizations and NGOs, while also highlighting any research findings in strategic, planning and policy documents and media reports. The Office on Sport for Development and Peace should facilitate the development of partnerships between well-qualified researchers and sport for development and peace programmes and initiatives of Member States, the United Nations system and national and international stakeholders, including sports organizations, NGOs and the private sector.
- **Civil society**:
    - Sports organizations and NGOs: incorporate evidence-based research in the design of sport for development and peace programmes and initiatives while also developing and implementing long-term monitoring and evaluation of all sport for development and peace activities, with the goal of using this information to improve service delivery and impact.
    - Media: highlight the impact of sport for development and peace programmes and initiatives via best practice and success stories.
    - Academia: review the Action Plan with the intention of identifying where evidence-based research is needed and then identify which private or public partnerships can lead to these systematic research efforts. Strengthen interdisciplinary research and build international academic networks dedicated to sport for development and peace.
    - Private sector: invest in comprehensive monitoring and evaluation of sport for development and peace efforts. Invest in sport for development and peace programmes and initiatives that have detailed plans for comprehensive monitoring and evaluation of all activities.